

**AVERILL
FAMILY**

AVERILL FAMILY

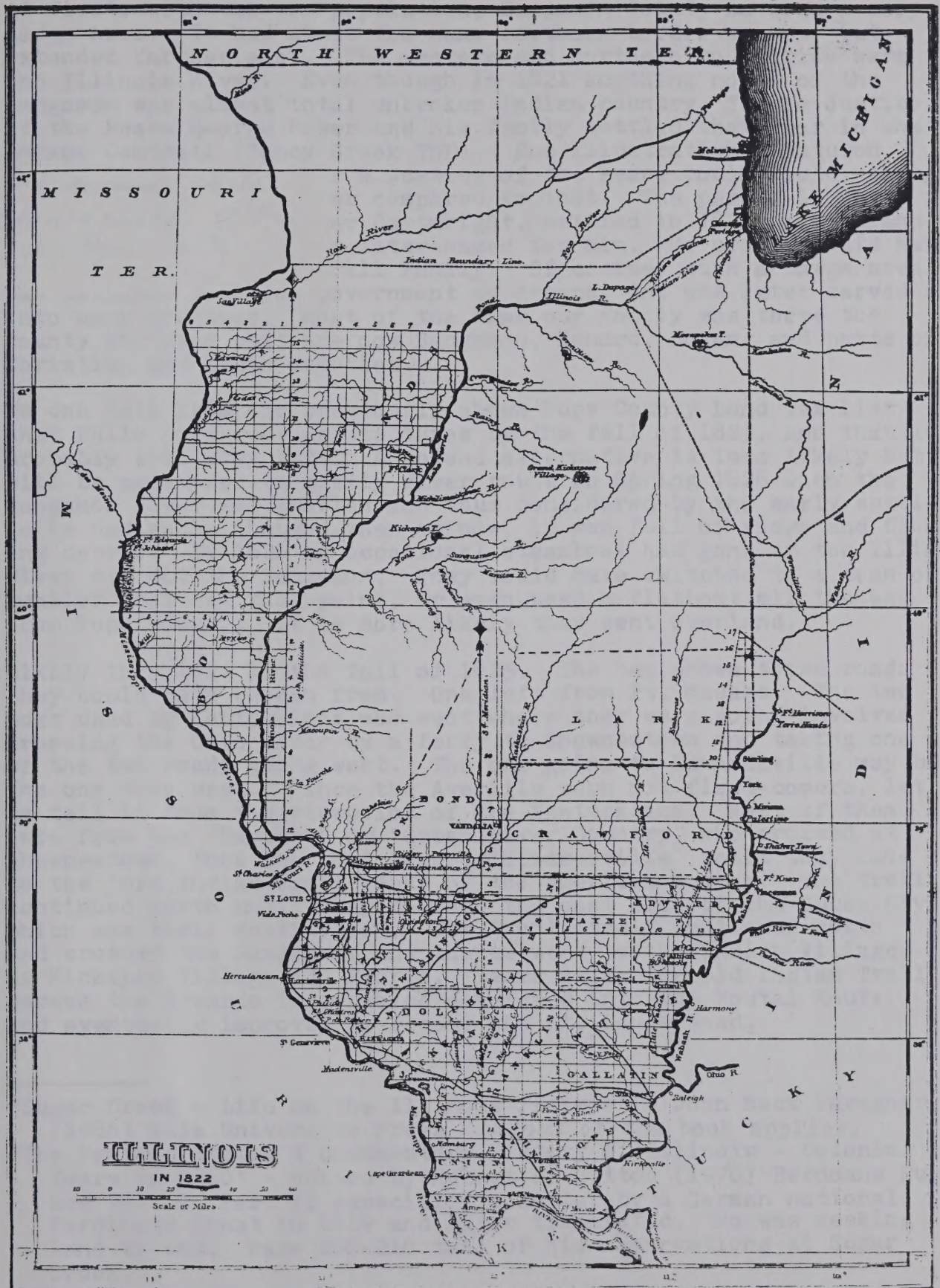
The family's next move was farther north, to the prairie country of Sangamon County, Illinois. They did not remain in the area very long, but we do want to know what their lives were like when they were there. At the time of the move Philo was 58, Rebecah 51, Henry 16 $\frac{1}{2}$, Charlotte 15, Eliza 13, Norman 10, and Allen 8. No evidence has been found yet that the families of Electa Hurd or Melissa Haskell were with them, or that other Pope County people came with them. By 1825 many people had heard of the rich soil of that yet rather primitive new area, and that the government had not yet sold all of the claims. Being originally from the north, Philo and Rebecca realized the climate there would be healthier. Another small recession occurred about that time, but we don't know if it affected them so much as their pioneer spirit. They did choose a spot with good Methodist neighbors nearby.

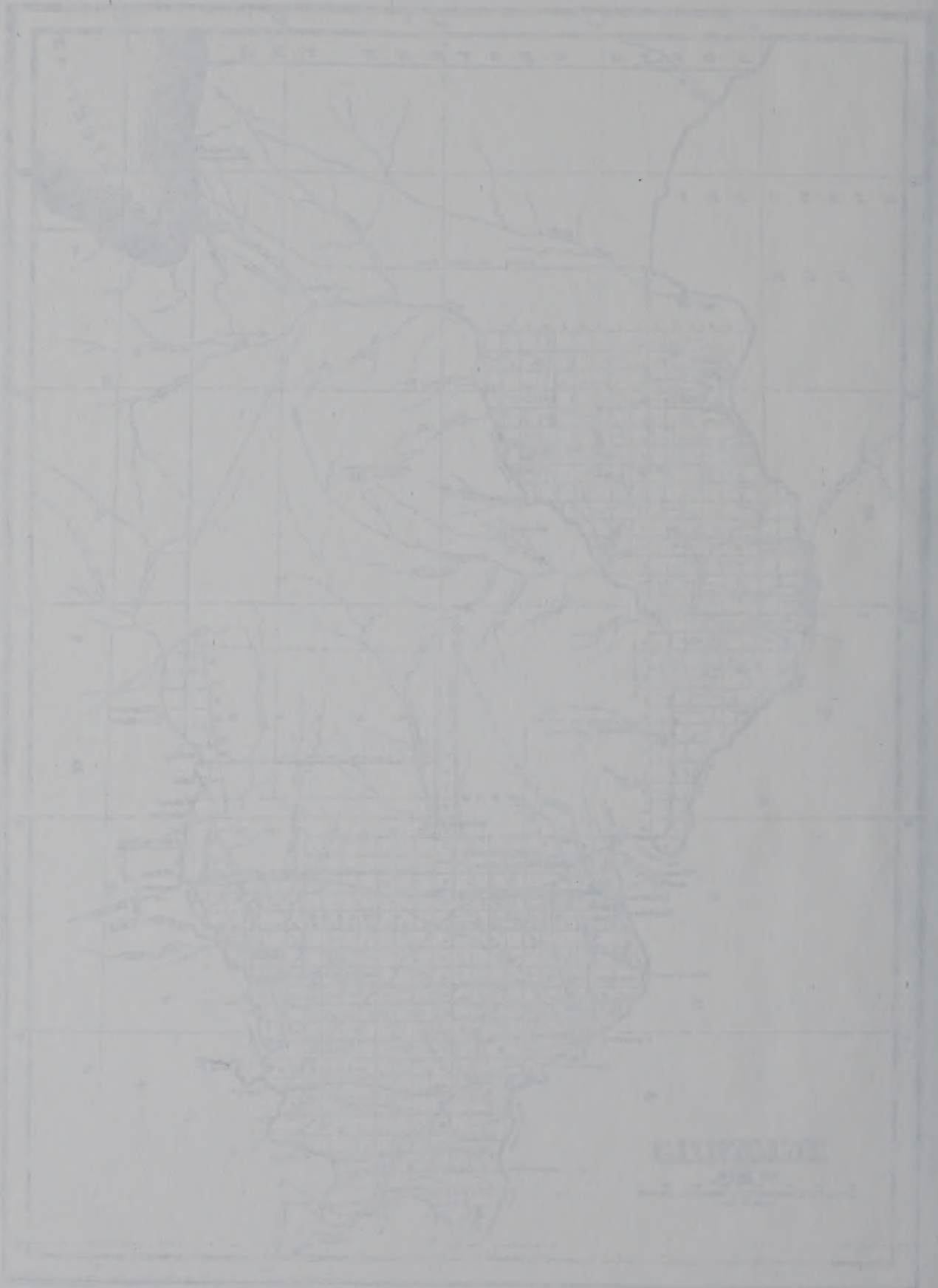
When Illinois had become a state in 1818, only the required 40,000 (if it was really that many) people were living there, almost all of them near the rivers in the southern part of the state. A few were along the Wabash, some--like the Averills--near the Ohio, but the bulk of them near the Mississippi. The last set consisted of two groups, the original French with those who joined them on the Kaskaskia and Cahokia rivers, and the mostly Southern squatters who had settled on the rich floodplain called the American Bottom, commencing right after the Revolutionary War.

Perhaps this map of Illinois in 1822 will demonstrate that the Averill Family really did seek the wilderness again. It shows all of the surveyed areas, consisting of those just described and the military Bounty Lands set aside for War of 1812 veterans. Actually the Bounty Lands could not be settled for several more years because the Sauk and Fox Indians there were much too fierce. The Kickapoo occupied most of the unsurveyed land, though under a treaty signed in 1819 they agreed to consider moving to Missouri. Both sets of Indians had supported the British in the War of 1812 and bitterly hated the settlers. A few of the largest Kickapoo villages are shown on the map. Though the capitol had been moved to Vandalia, still on the Kaskaskia River, settlement inland that far north had occurred only sparsely. Nearly everything north of Vandalia was unsettled, even in 1825 when the Averills moved farther north.

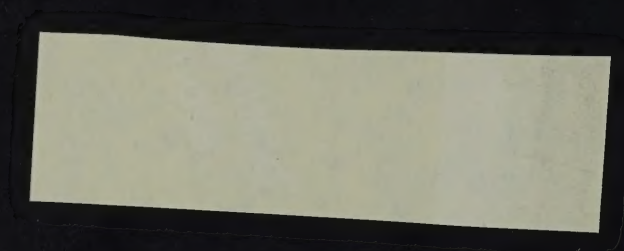
This map omits one important element--Sangamon County was surveyed in 1821 and made into a county with its seat at Springfield. Maybe the mapmaker considered it unimportant since only about 500 people lived there. To find the site of Springfield on the map, locate the Sangamon River, easy to spot on the white part of the map. Next locate the Sugar River flowing into it from the south. Springfield was slightly to the lower left of the juncture. Everything to the north was unbroken Indian country, and so was most of everything south nearly to Vandalia. In the spring of 1826, the Averill Family was living in sort of an "island" of 500 or so white settlers surrounded by wilderness.

AVERILL FAMILY





Mentioned because Philo
has been a Justice of the
Peace in Pope County



AVERILL FAMILY

At first, with the low population, Sangamon County covered a very large area. It had about the same southern border as now, but extended farther east. The western and northern boundaries were the Illinois River. Even though in 1821 anything north of the Sangamon was almost total unbroken Indian country, future Justice of the Peace George Power and his family settled that year in what became Cantrall (Fancy Creek TWP). See illustration--featured mostly to show the power a Justice of the Peace could wield, though it is doubtful Philo ever compared to that. The person in the other picture, Rev. Peter Cartwright, settled in 1823 on Richland Creek. The township was later named for him. He probably did have an influence on the Averill Family. Of course, such a large area was designed to allow government to expand, and was later carved up into many counties. Most of the time our family was there the county included what are now Sangamon, Menard, Logan, and parts of Christian and Macon counties.

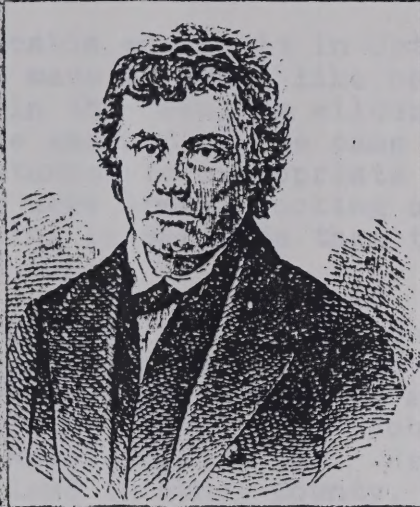
We can tell from the previously shown Pope County Land Tax List that Philo paid real estate taxes by the fall of 1825, and that is probably when they left. A second alternative is less likely but will be mentioned--a mostly river route in Spring 1826 when the Sangamon River was swollen and thus considered by the early settlers to be navigable though, then as now, it was full of snags and floating debris. By 1826 an occasional steamboat had gone up the Illinois River but not the Sangamon. They could have switched to a team or smaller craft at that point, or even used a flatboat all the way from Pope County. It is more likely they went overland.

Likely they left in the fall of 1825. The map shows three roads they could have chosen from. One left from Ft. Masaac. The two most used by Kentuckians who went where they were going involved crossing the Ohio River by a ferry to Shawneetown and taking one of the two roads going west. The one going to Edwardsville may be the one they used. Since the Averills were not first-comers, let us tell it from the viewpoint of the Kentuckians. Most of them were from the "Barrens" or "Green River Country" who crossed at Shawneetown, took the road towards Edwardsville until they came to the "Old Indian Trail" east of the American Bottom. The trail continued north until they reached the east side of the Sugar River, which was their destination. The trail itself continued north and crossed the Sangamon, and thence went to the Indian Villages at Kickapoo Village and Peoria. Years later the Old Indian Trail became the Edwards Trace which developed into the Postal Route and eventually improved to become the St. Louis Road.

"Sugar Creek - Life on the Illinois Prairie" - John Mack Faragher (1986) Yale University Press (Most of the book applies)

"The Prairie State, A Documentary History of Illinois - Colonial Years to 1860" - edited by Robert P. Sutton (1976) Eerdmans Publ. See Vol. I, Part II especially a letter by a German national, Ferdinand Ernst in 1819 and later translated. He was seeking land to buy. Page 208-210 tell of his observations at Sugar Creek.

Peter Cartwright



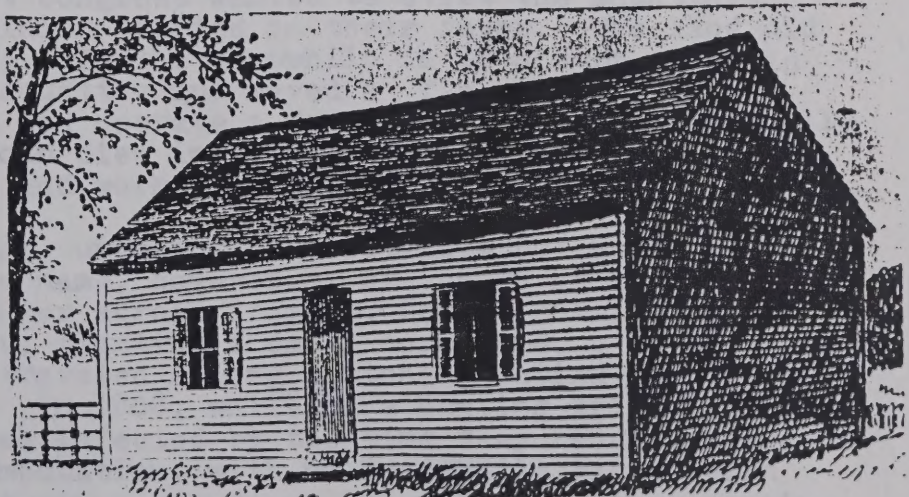
Courtesy, SVC, Lincoln Library

Peter Cartwright (1785-1872) American Methodist clergyman known as the "backwoods preacher," was born in Amherst Co. VA and moved with his parents to Kentucky where he was converted at a camp meeting in 1801 from the "evil" pleasures of card playing, horse racing, and dancing, to God and Methodism. The tall, brawny Cartwright was a natural orator who took on the devil as his personal enemy. At age 18 he was a full fledged circuit riding preacher. He preached as if "the devil had no rights and never apologized for his attacks on Satan's kingdom." At his services they sang songs like,

"A Methodist is my name
And I hope to live and die the same.
Oh, whip the devil around the stump
And hit him a crack at every jump."

He had an unmitigated hatred of slavery which prompted him to settle at Richland Creek, Sangamon County IL, with his wife and family in 1823. Besides preaching he engaged in local politics, even running unsuccessfully against Abraham Lincoln for congress. Philo and Rebecah Averill and the children must have listened to Rev. Cartwright many times, both in Sangamon County and in Hillsgrove in McDonough County, for he preached in both places many times. This man wrote a very interesting autobiography.

This is a picture of the courthouse at Cantrall where Justice of the Peace George Power presided during the first half of the 19th century. Abraham Lincoln presented many cases there in his early career as a lawyer.



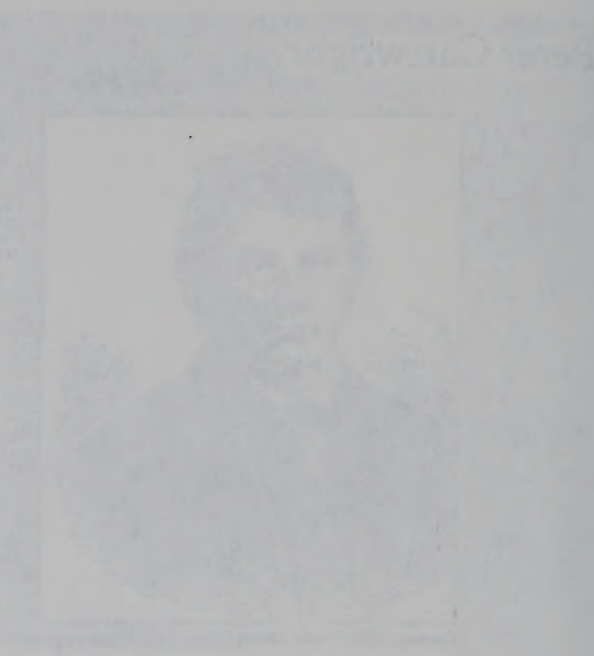
Sources used for both sketches--"Prairie of Promise - Springfield & Sangamon County, IL" - Edward J. Russo (1983) and articles in American Peoples Encyclopedia.

John G. Galt (1851-1911)

John G. Galt was born in 1851 in the town of Galt, Kentucky. He was the son of John Galt and Mary Galt. He was educated in the common schools of his native town and in the University of Kentucky. He was a member of the Kentucky Bar and practiced law in his native town. He was also a member of the Kentucky Agricultural Society and the Kentucky Horticultural Society. He was a very successful lawyer and a very successful farmer. He died in 1911 in the town of Galt, Kentucky.

John G. Galt was a very successful lawyer and a very successful farmer. He was a member of the Kentucky Bar and the Kentucky Agricultural Society. He was also a member of the Kentucky Horticultural Society. He died in 1911 in the town of Galt, Kentucky.

John G. Galt was a very successful lawyer and a very successful farmer. He was a member of the Kentucky Bar and the Kentucky Agricultural Society. He was also a member of the Kentucky Horticultural Society. He died in 1911 in the town of Galt, Kentucky.



This is a map of Galt, Kentucky. It shows the town and surrounding areas. The map is oriented with North at the top.

John G. Galt was a very successful lawyer and a very successful farmer. He was a member of the Kentucky Bar and the Kentucky Agricultural Society. He was also a member of the Kentucky Horticultural Society. He died in 1911 in the town of Galt, Kentucky.

AVERILL FAMILY

Perhaps the easiest way to tell about the settlement of Sangamon County is to give a little narrative about the very first settler. When the locals formed their Old Settlers Club years later, three or four families claimed they were first. Finally a committee was formed to search out the truth. After much deliberation they decided that, though others broke ground first, the first to build a residence was peg-legged Robert Pulliam. Here, then, is his story.

Robert's cabin was built in October, 1817. Some idealistic early writers made it sound like he came, Moses-like, to settle on good ground in the "howling wilderness." The truth is he knew exactly where he was and why he came there. He took advantage of a set of circumstances to expropriate a desirable spot from Kickapoo Indians he knew were absent looking over land in Missouri the government was trying to persuade them to remove to. He wanted to be first to stake a claim.

Robert Pulliam was the grandson of Scotch-Irish immigrants. His father, John, grew up in the Shenandoah Valley. About 1770 he settled in Henry County, VA and got married. Robert was born there in 1776, the oldest son. John fought with the Henry County Militia in the Revolutionary War. He was poor and rich planters owned most of the land in Henry County, so soon after the war he took wife and three little ones to Kentucky where he hoped to buy land. Before they could save enough money history repeated itself, with rich planters driving the price way too high.

In 1796 the Pulliams and several others in the same circumstances crossed the Ohio River and squatted on the American Bottom, a rich floodplain, not far from the French settlements. Robert's mother died, probably of malaria, and the oldest sister took over raising the other children. By then there were six of them. No one could buy land until it was surveyed. The claims of the French-speaking people already living there had to be sorted out first, a very difficult task. At first Congress wanted to evict the squatters but eventually public opinion shifted in their favor. The land did not go on sale until 1815. In the meanwhile in 1808 John sold his improvements to another squatter and moved a few miles up the Kaskaskia River to squat and operate a ferry. His heirs were finally able to secure title. John died in 1812, a poor farmer who craved land all his life and worked hard but never got to own any.

Robert grew up to be tough, uncultured, illiterate but shrewd. (He did learn how to sign his name, however.) At age 26 he married and staked a claim at Wood River across from St. Louis, subsisting by raising hogs in the woods, planting a small cornfield, a garden, and hunting game. He often traveled a long distance hunting and was good at dodging Indians. In 1808, while on a hunting trip his leg was injured. It became so infected by the time they reached help that his only hope was amputation, with no anesthetic except corn liquor. He gritted his teeth and endured it stoically, then continued his active life with a peg leg.

Perhaps the easiest way to tell about the settlement of the country is to give a little narrative about the very first settlers. When the Indians learned that the Settlers were coming, they on four families claimed they were first. Finally a committee was formed to decide on the first. After much deliberation they decided that the first settlers were those who first arrived in the country. Hence the first settlers were those who first arrived in the country.

Robert's father was born in October, 1817. Some localities early settlers made it seem like he came, house-like, to settle in good ground in the "hollow wilderness". The truth is he came exactly where he was and why he came there. He took advantage of a set of circumstances to appropriate a desirable spot from the Indians. As time went on, looking over land in Missouri, the government was trying to persuade him to remove to. He wanted to be there in some a claim.

Robert's father was the grandson of Scotch-Irish immigrants. His father, John, grew up in the Pennsylvania Valley. About 1770 he settled in Henry County, VA and got married. Robert was born there in 1770. One of his sons, John, fought with the Henry County Militia in the Revolutionary War. He was poor and his parents owned most of the land in Henry County, so soon after the war he took wife and three little ones to Kentucky where he hoped to get land. Before they could save enough money to get there, they died, with little children driving the price way too high.

In 1792 the father and several others in the same circumstances entered the Ohio River and settled on the western border, a rich floodplain, not far from the French settlement. Robert's mother died, probably of malaria, and the oldest sister took over raising the other children. By then there were six of them. No one could buy land until it was surveyed. The claim of the French-speaking people already living there had to be sorted out first, a very difficult task. At first Congress wanted to give the settlers but eventually public opinion melted in their favor. The land did not go on sale until 1812. In the meantime in 1808 John sold his improvements to another settler and moved a few miles up the Kentucky River to start another colony. His wife with finally sold to secure title. John died in 1812, a poor farmer who craved land all his life and worked hard but never got to own any.

Robert grew up to be tough, uneducated, illiterate but strong. He did learn how to sign his name, however. At age 20 he married and started a claim at Wood River across from St. Louis, subsisting by raising hogs in the woods, planting a small cornfield, a garden and hunting game. He often traveled a long distance hunting and was good at cooking Indians. In 1803, while on a hunting trip he was injured. It became an infirmity by the time they reached him that his only hope was amputation, with no anesthetic except water. He grinded his teeth and endured it stoically. Then continuing his active life with a peg leg.

AVERILL FAMILY

Being a long range hunter, Robert Pulliam learned of the Indian camp near the San-gam-ma where they hunted in the winter and made maple sugar in the groves in early spring, some of which was sold very profitably. The Kickapoos had fought on the side of the British during the War of 1812 and hated the settlers bitterly. Massacres were frequent, and for that the Indians were regarded with loathing and contempt.

When the Pulliam's son Martin was seven years old, his next-door neighbor, Mrs. Reagan and her six children were scalped while walking in the woods. Some women were tomahawked while making soap in big kettles in their own yards. The Indians grabbed their screaming babies and threw them into the boiling water. (See the picture of Martin Pulliam and his wife on another page. They lived three doors from Philo Averill and his family when the 1830 census was taken.)

Finally, after a series of land-grabbing treaties, the Kickapoos, hungry and broken-spirited, agreed in 1817 to look over the tracts near the Osage River in Missouri the government was offering in exchange for their land in Illinois. Robert Pulliam had prepared for the time when something like that might happen. When the Woods River land office finally opened in 1816, he sold his improvements and took the cash rather than exercise his squatter's right to buy. He moved his family back to stay with his relatives near Pulliam's Ferry. Cattle herders had been raising cattle in the woods near the American Bottom for years. In 1817 he purchased a herd of skinny cattle.

Robert knew that during late 1817 most of the Indians were away trying out the facilities at Osage River, so that fall he hired four drovers and a cook who was sister to one of them. Instead of grazing the cattle on the mast in the local woods as was the custom, they drove their cattle at the slow pace of 10 miles a day to keep them healthy, up the Old Indian Trail to the San-gam-ma. They camped near the trail on the east side of the Sugar Creek, in the maple woods at the edge of the tall grass. The cattle soon grew fat on the rich diet. The group built a cabin on that spot and stayed all winter, caring for the cattle. In the spring he put his drovers to work collecting and boiling maple sap in the woods. They had already prepared for that by lugging along all the necessary kettles and buckets. A fine profit was made when they returned to the settlement in the spring with fat cattle and a large quantity of maple sugar which sold very quickly.

Robert did not return to the Sugar Camp until after the treaty with the Indians was signed in 1819. Even then some Indians remained but they for the most part stayed north of the Sangamon River. Other settlers, perhaps hearing of Pulliam's success, or perhaps on their own initiative, took a chance on the Indians and went to Sugar Creek during the summer or fall of 1818. Some of those families did plant crops in 1818, but Pulliam and his crew had built the first cabin, and had lived there during the winter of 1817/8.

being a long range hunter, Robert Pulliam learned of the Indians near the San Juan where they hunted in the winter and made camp in the grove in early spring, some of which was sold very cheaply. The Kickapoo had heard on the side of the river during the War of 1812 and killed the soldiers. The Indians were friendly, and for that the Indians were regarded as a friendly and honest.

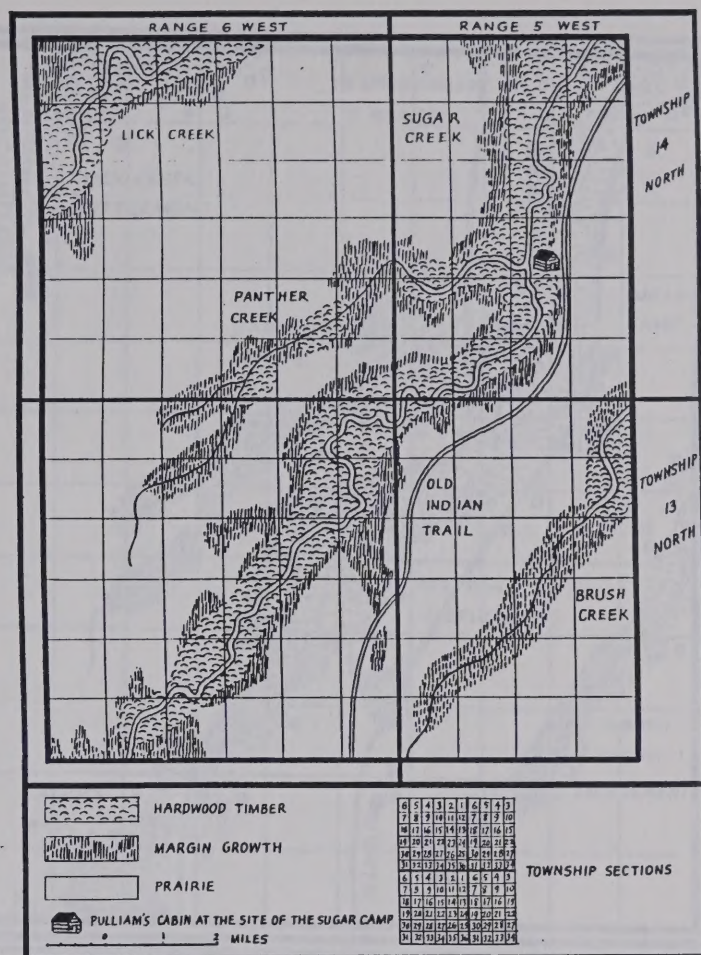
When the Pulliam's son Martin was seven years old, his mother, Mrs. Martin, and her six children were assigned while working in the woods. Some women were furnished with their own in his kitchen in their own yards. The Indians traded their various goods and then into the boiling water. The Pulliam's of Martin Pulliam and his wife on whom page. They lived three doors from John Averbil and his family when the 1812 census was taken.

Finally, after a series of land-grabbing treaties, the Kickapoo, Huron and Shawanese, agreed in 1817 to look over the tract near the Chicago River in Illinois. Robert Pulliam had prepared exchange for their land in Illinois. When the Woods for the time when something like that might happen. When the Woods River land office finally agreed in 1818, he sold his improvements and took the cash rather than exercise his daughter's right to buy. He moved his family back to stay with his relatives near Pulliam's Ferry. Cattle raising had been raising cattle in the woods near the American border for years. In 1817 he purchased a herd of selling cattle.

Robert knew that during late 1817 most of the Indians were away trying out the facilities at Chicago River, so that all his river four drivers and a coach who was sister to one of them. Instead of grazing the cattle on the west in the local woods as was the custom they drove their cattle at the show place of 10 miles a day to keep them healthy. Up the old Indian trail to the San Juan. They camped near the trail on the east side of the Sugar Creek. In the maple woods at the top of the tall grass. The cattle soon grew fat on the rich diet. The group built a cabin on that spot and stayed all winter, waiting for the cattle. In the spring he put his drivers to work milking and boiling maple sap in the woods. They had already prepared for that by logging along all the necessary settled and uncultivated. A fine profit was made when they returned to the settlement in the spring with the cattle and a large quantity of maple sugar which sold very cheaply.

Robert did not return to the Sugar Camp until after the treaty with the Indians was signed in 1817. Even when some Indian remained but they for the most part stayed north of the San Juan River. Other settlers, perhaps hearing of Pulliam's success, on perhaps on their own initiative, took a chance on the Indians and went to Sugar Creek during the summer or fall of 1818. Some of those settled his plant crops in 1818, but Pulliam and his crew had built the first cabin, and had lived there during the winter of 1817.

AVERILL FAMILY





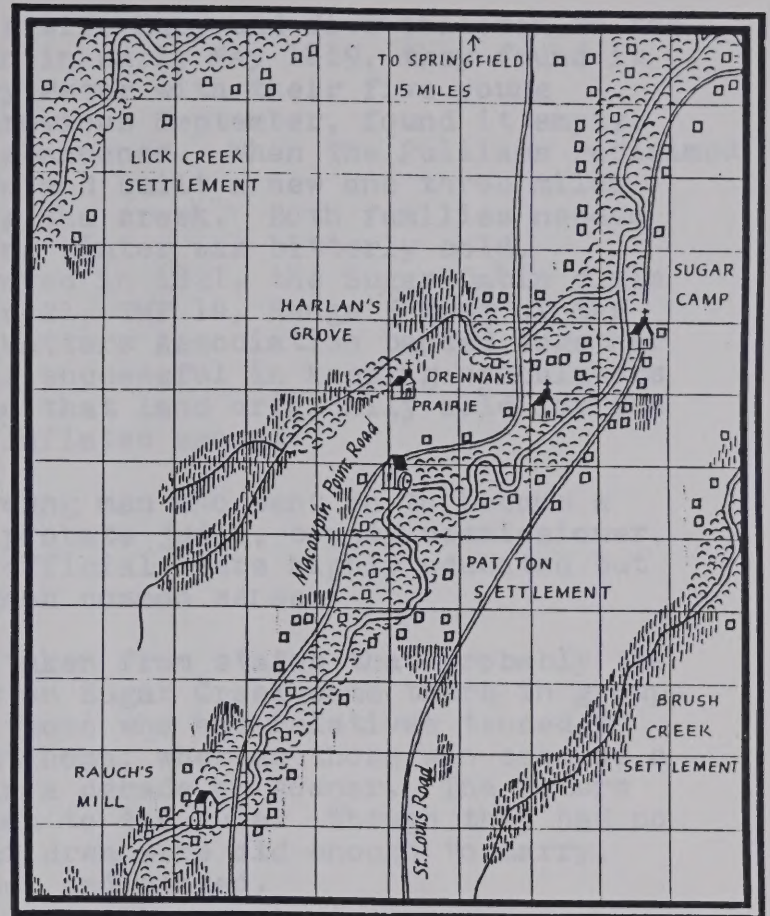
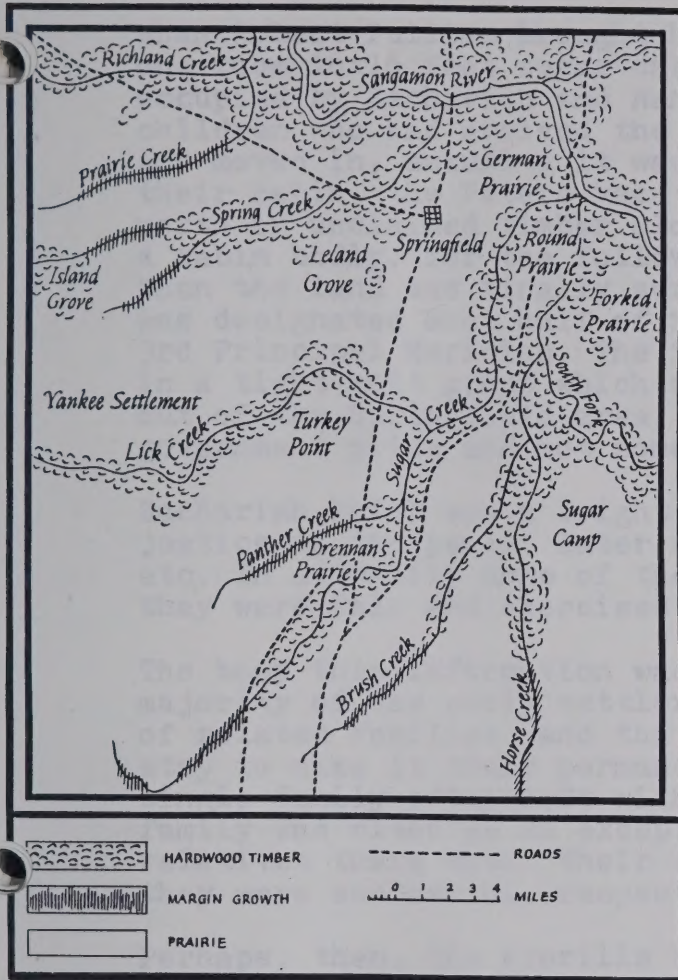
John Karpis in 1935



Alvin Karpis (1901-1935) was a prominent figure in the Karpis family. He was born in 1901 and died in 1935. He was a member of the Karpis family and was known for his criminal activities. He was a member of the Karpis family and was known for his criminal activities. He was a member of the Karpis family and was known for his criminal activities.

John Karpis, 1935

AVERILL FAMILY

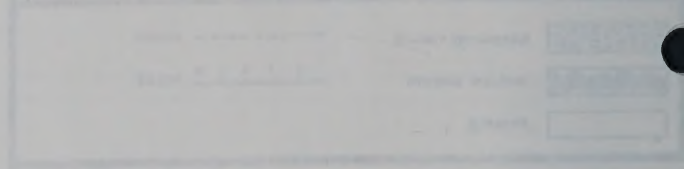
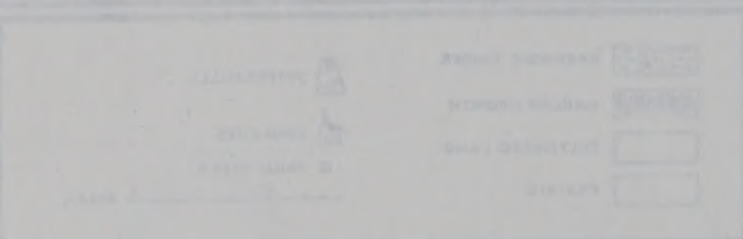
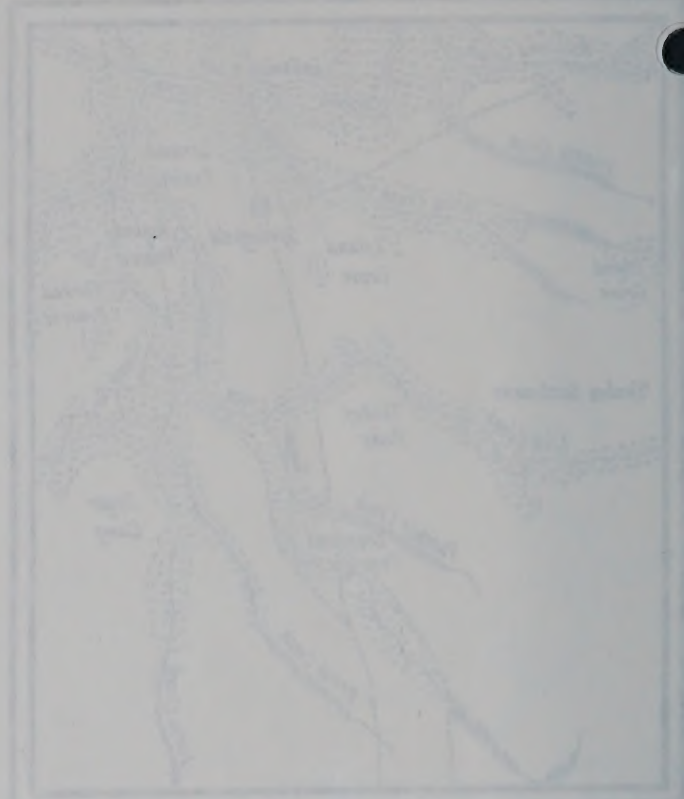


Left - The Sangamo Country
in 1830

Right - Sugar Creem in 1835

Going by the 1830 Sangamon County IL census, Page 7/140 it seems as though the Averill Family must have lived along the Panther Creek Branch of the Sugar River, probably in Harlan's Grove though it could have been Drennan's Prairie. You can see the site of the Methodist church there. The Presbyterians moved to Lick Creek. The site of Crow's mill is shown, south of the Church, on Sugar Creek near the road. Though one of the county histories says there were no bridges at all in the county until after the time the Averills were gone, Faragher's book says the Crow family built one in 1827 to give access to the mill for customers in Patton's Settlement. Perhaps it was a small private bridge for customers rather than travelers. The census page shows Robert Crow and family as neighbors of the Averills.

- from book, "Sugar Creek" by J.M. Faragher



Left - The Sugar Creek area in 1895
Right - Sugar Creek in 1895

Colony by the 1895 Sugar Creek County II census, Page 7/100
It seems as though the Averill family must have lived along
the Panther Creek branch of the Sugar River, probably in
Harrison's Grove. It could have been Truman's estate.
You can see the site of the Methodist church there. The
Presbyterian moved to Lake Creek. The site of Grove's mill
is shown, south of the church, on Sugar Creek near the road.
There's one of the county historical maps that gave no bridges
at all in the county until after the time the 4 mills were
gone. Harrison's book says the Grove family built one in 1832.
to give access to the mill for lumber in facton's settlement.
There was a small private bridge for customers rather than
travelers. The census page shows Robert Grove and family as
neighbors of the Averills.

AVERILL FAMILY

When Robert Pulliam brought his wife Mary and five children to the one-room 16x16 foot sugar cabin in early May 1819, they found it occupied by Zachariah and Nancy Peter with their five young children who had arrived the previous September, found it empty, and moved in, assuming it was abandoned. When the Pulliams reclaimed their cabin, the Peters vacated and built a new one three miles north in unclaimed timber along the creek. Both families needed a cabin badly, for the following winter was bitterly cold. When the land was finally surveyed in 1821, the Sugar Cabin claim was designated West half of Sec 21, TWP 14, Range 5 West of the 3rd Principal Meridian. The Squatters Association banded together in a tight-knit group which was successful in keeping speculators out of the Springfield area, so that land originally sold for the government price and not some inflated amount.

Zachariah Peter was a bright young man who went on to become a justice of the peace, later a probate judge, county commissioner, etc. In actuality none of the officials were highly educated but they were fair and exercised good common sense.

The book this information was taken from states that probably the majority of the early settlers on Sugar Creek came there in groups of related families, and that those who had relatives tended to stay to make it their permanent home, whereas those who came as a single family often left within a decade or sooner. The Peters family was cited as an exception to the rule. Though they had no relatives there until their children were old enough to marry, they were successful, respected, and stayed.

Perhaps, then, the Averills had no strong ties to the area. They came about 1825 and left in 1832 or 3. The book states that until at least 1827 the people in Sugar Creek had to make a long 15 mile horseback ride into the Courthouse in Springfield to vote. By 1827 or a little later the Drennan's had established a postal station and military training ground. Either then or in 1830 a voting precinct was established at Drennan's. This creates a riddle which this writer has been unable to solve. Philo Averill never voted at Drennan's, as far as I can tell, yet he was living in Drennan's neighborhood when the 1830 census was taken. Only a few faded and stained old election records still exist, but the ones that do exist show Philo consistently voting at the Courthouse. The records end in 1830.

A few years ago when I first learned of the voting record I assumed the Averill family was living in or near Springfield. Now I'm inclined to think otherwise, but am by no means positive that they did not live there first and move to the Harlan's Grove section of Sugar Creek later. So that all bases will be covered, a few words about the status of the town of Springfield at the time of their arrival is in order. We will want to know about that anyway.

When Robert Avellis brought his wife Mary and five children to the new home, he took with him in early May 1901, they found it occupied by Jacobus and Mary Peter and their five young children. He had arrived the previous September, found it empty and moved in, assuming it was abandoned. When the Avellis family arrived, the Peter family and half a cow and three pigs were in the house. The Peter family along the road. The Avellis family moved in the following winter was bitterly cold. When the land was finally surveyed in 1851, the Peter family was designated west half of sec 21, Twp 1 N, Range 2 West of the 1st principal meridian. The Quarter Association land register is a 160-acre tract which was designated in keeping with the out of the Springfield area. The land originally sold for the government price and was inflated amount.

Jacobus Peter was a bright young man who went on to become a Justice of the Peace, later a Probate Judge, county commissioner, etc. He was actually one of the officials who highly educated the town with fair and efficient good common sense.

The book this information was taken from states that probably the majority of the early settlers on Sugar Creek came there in groups of related families, and that those who had relatives tended to stay to make it their permanent home, whereas those who came as single families often left within a decade or so. The Peter family was listed as an exception to the rule. Though they had no relatives there until their children were old enough to marry, they were successful, respected, and stayed.

Further, then, the Avellis had no strong ties to the area. They came about 1852 and left in 1853 or 54. The book states that until at least 1857 the people in Sugar Creek had no sense of place. By 1857 or a little later the Avellis family had established a postal station and a military training ground. When then or in 1850 a voting precinct was established at Avellan's. This Avellis family which this writer has been unable to solve. This Avellis never lived at Avellan's, as far as I can tell. Yet he was living in Avellan's neighborhood when the 1850 census was taken. Only a few listed and named old election records still exist, but the ones that do exist show this consistently voting at the Avellan's. The records end in 1870.

A few years ago when I first learned of the voting records I assumed the Avellis family was living in or near Springfield. Now I'm inclined to think otherwise, but as my knowledge of that area is not as good as it once was, I can't say for sure. I've covered a few of Sugar Creek later, so that all names will be covered, a few words about the status of the town at Springfield at the time of their arrival is in order. He will want to know about the area.

AVERILL FAMILY

Even though the family probably farmed they would have gone to Springfield on occasion, perhaps to shop or visit, certainly to vote.

The village of Springfield was established a couple of years after the Sugar Creek settlement, but it could not have been more than that, since Springfield was declared to be county seat in 1821. By the spring of 1826, 500 people were living there. The first newspaper, "The Sangamo Spectator," began publication. Soon there were a saddler, hatmaker, cobbler, several cabinetmakers, carpenters, and also taverns, a distillery, a tannery, and probably horse-driven grain mills. All of these were strung out on one main street, called Jefferson Street, with the houses extending out along the edges.* By the following year there were several millers because farmers and town dwellers alike needed corn and wheat ground for bread. Later mills used water power, but there was no market as yet for any of their products outside the settlement. Transportation was way too expensive even if there had been a demand. Farmers fed the surplus to their hogs or other animals.

On 7 August 1826 Philo was up bright and early, and if he lived 15 miles away that would have been early, indeed, unless he was staying overnight in town. He was the 5th person to vote at the Courthouse in Springfield.

According to the Sangamon County History, "The grandest in the year to both men and boys was election day. State and county elections of that day were held in August. Nearly every boy in the precinct old enough to ride a horse, accompanied father or brother, all spent the day. Liquor was usually available, and drunken men and fights often witnessed. Horse racing was a common pastime at elections.

Voting was a slow and tedious process. The clerk recorded the name of the voter, and after it the name of each candidate voted for, which were called out by the voter in rotation." (This was before the days of secret balloting. People were usually pretty proud of their political affiliation. Free drinks bought many votes.)

Voting records also show him running for Coroner 2 August 1830, when he was 62 years old. He lost the election, coming in third. The number of votes he received was not impressive, but at least respectable. The people he ran against were not from the Sugar Creek settlement--I did not investigate their residences otherwise. Maybe they came from some place nearer the courthouse, for that would certainly have facilitated their work. Philo must have been a well respected, stable citizen or he would not have been a candidate for a post like that. The election clerks spelled his name "Avrill," "Averill," and "Averille."

*"Prairie of Promise - Springfield and Sangamon County, IL" -
Edward J. Russo (1963)

Even though the family probably farmed they would have gone to Springfield on occasion, perhaps to shop or visit, certainly to vote.

The village of Springfield was established a couple of years after the Sugar Creek settlement, but it could not have been more than that. Since Springfield was declared to be a city in 1831, by the spring of 1835-400 people were living there. The first newspaper, "The Sangamon Spectator," began publication. Soon there were a saddler, hatter, cooper, several cabinetmakers, carpenters, and also lawyers, a distillery, a tannery, and probably horse-drawn grain mills. All of these were strung out on one main street, called Jefferson Street, with the houses extending out along the edges. By the following year there were several mills because farmers and town dwellers alike needed corn and wheat ground for bread. Later mills used water power, but there was no market as yet for any of their products outside the settlement. Transportation was very expensive even if there had been a railroad. Farmers fed the surplus to their hogs or other animals.

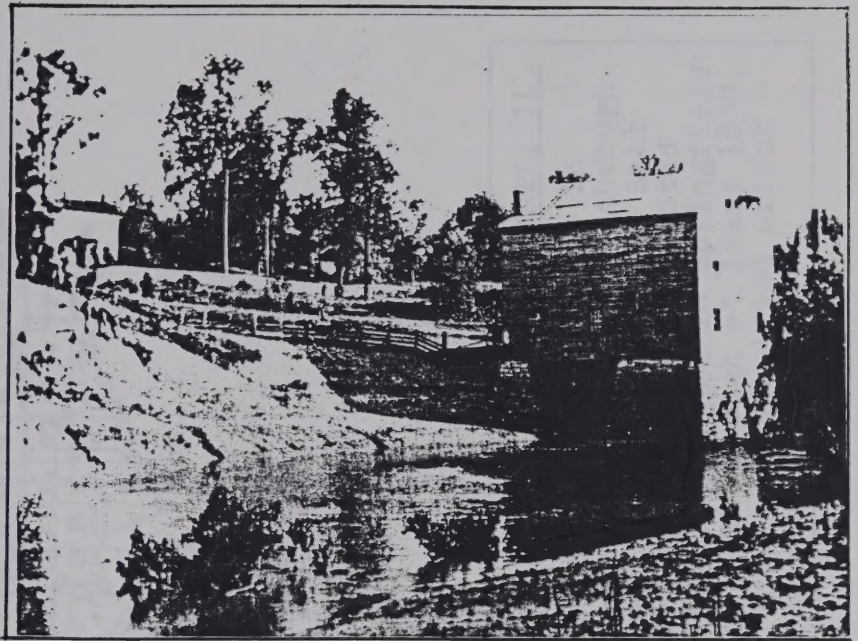
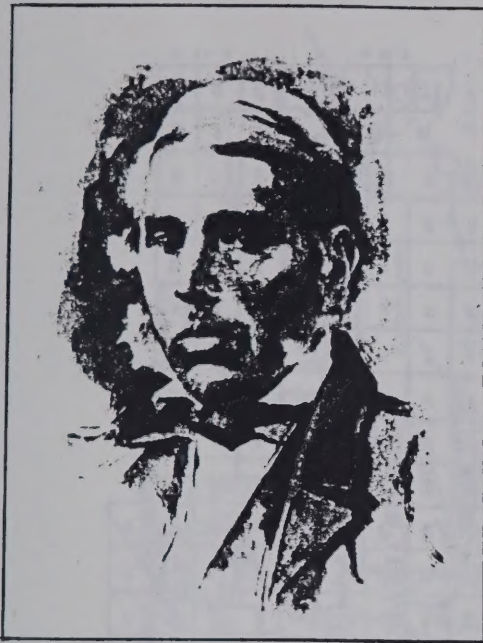
On 7 August 1835 Springfield was up bright and early, and it was 15 miles away that would have been early, indeed, unless he was staying overnight in town. He was the 5th person to vote at the Court House in Springfield.

According to the Sangamon County History, "The grandest in the year to both men and boys was election day. State and county elections of that day were held in August. Nearly every boy in the precinct old enough to ride a horse, accompanied father or brother, all spent the day. Horses were usually available, and drunken men and fights often witnessed. Horse racing was a common pastime at elections."

Voting was a slow and tedious process. The clerk recorded the name of the voter, and after it the name of each candidate voted for, which were called out by the voter in rotation. (This was before the days of secret balloting. People were usually pretty proud of their political affiliation. The drinker bought many votes.)

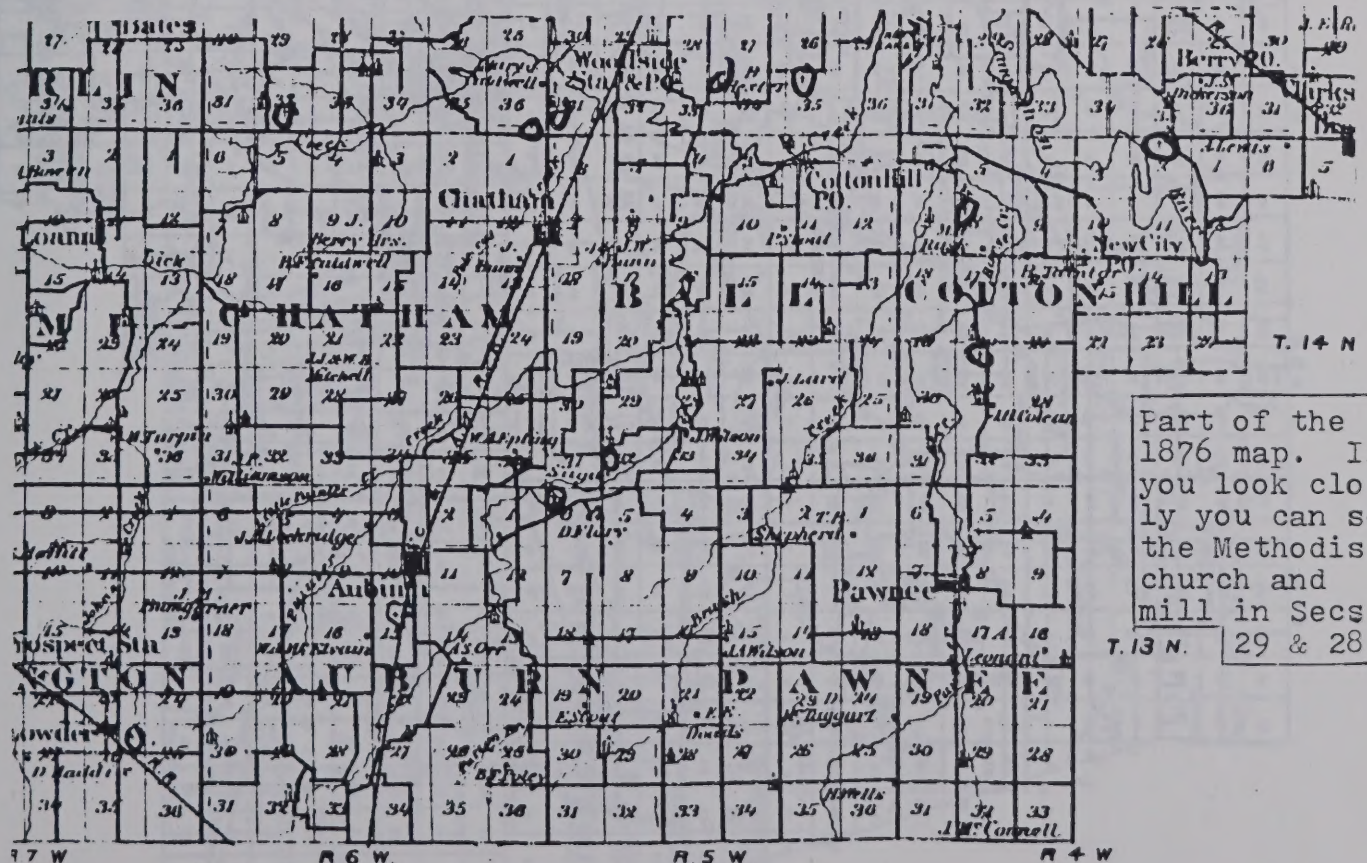
Voting records also show his running for Governor 3 August 1830, when he was 61 years old. He lost the election, coming in third. The number of votes he received was not impressive, but at least respectable. The people he ran against were not from the Sugar Creek settlement--I did not investigate their residences otherwise. Maybe they came from some place near the courthouse, for that would certainly have facilitated their work. This must have been a well respected stable citizen or he would not have been a candidate for a year like that. The election clerk spelled his name "Avell", "Avellie", and "Avellie".

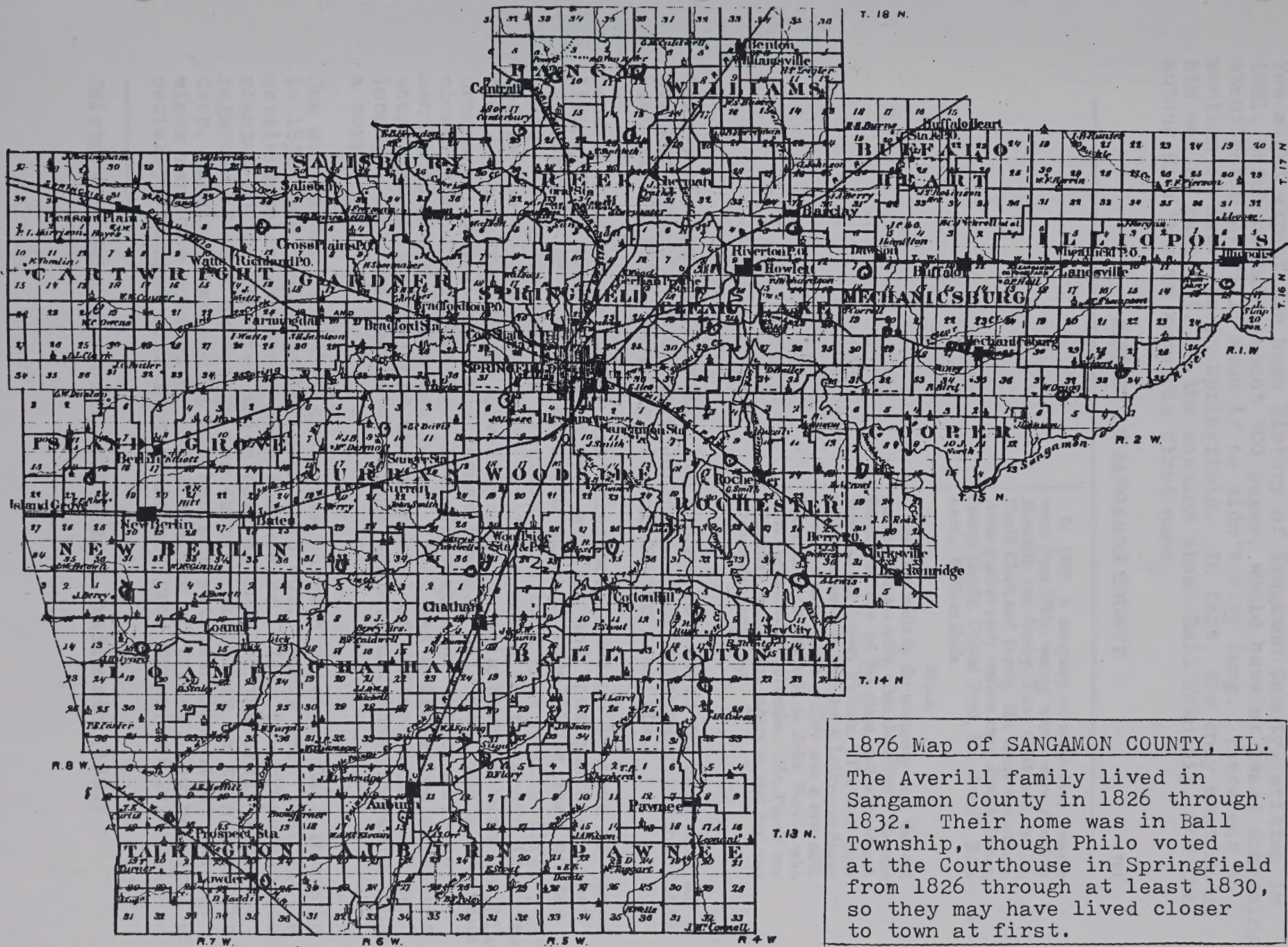
AVERILL FAMILY



Left-Job Fletcher (1793-1872) portrait in 1836, the year he was re-elected as a Whig to the IL State Senate. His first winter at Sugar Creek was spent with wife and 3-month old daughter in a 3-face open shelter. In 1830 they lived 11 doors from the Averill Family.

Right-Men and boys swam in the nude in Robert Crow's millpond, sometimes riding their horses in the nude. Probably Norman Chancellor, Allen and Henry Averill swam there. Boys also caught panfish to eat for supper.





1876 Map of SANGAMON COUNTY, IL.

The Averill family lived in Sangamon County in 1826 through 1832. Their home was in Ball Township, though Philo voted at the Courthouse in Springfield from 1826 through at least 1830, so they may have lived closer to town at first.

You might expect the huge History of Sangamon County, written in 1881, which contains about 900 pages, would have at least something about Philo Averill, even if he didn't stay long. There was no mention of Averills in Springfield. In fact, the only mention of him was on page 791, in the section about Ball Township, and the author didn't even know his first name.

HISTORY OF SANGAMON COUNTY.

791

In 1829, a company of sixty-three persons came from Ohio, among whom were Absolom Meredith and family, Isaac Clark and family, David Clark and family, Mr. Snell and others. Among other early settlers were Joseph Dixon, Joseph Gatlin, Daniel Ford, Mr. Averill, Edin Lewis, William Eads. ✓

MILLS.

The first mills in the township were the old fashioned horse mills, often described. Thomas Black had one on his place, and also Joseph Drennan and Robert Pulliam. The first water mill was erected in 1827, by A. Lathrop on Sugar creek, on section two. This was a saw mill. Subsequently it was sold to John Purvis, who built a grist mill in connection. Mr. Purvis run a distillery, which, like others at that day, was extensively patronized

That's it, though Henry Averill's name is listed on page 163 as a soldier attached to Captain Japhet A. Ball's Company in the Black Hawk War in 1832. Nothing else about the Averills.

Generally in those county histories most mention is made of those living there when the books were written and thus customers when the books go on sale, or else who made an indellible mark on the place. In this case the Averills were long gone nearly fifty years before the book was written. Of those named in the above illustration, the only ones who lived in Philo's neighborhood were Pulliams, Drennans, Eddin Lewis, and Thomas Black. Only Pulliams & Drennans were close. The others must have been farther down the creek. He mentioned a sawmill on Section 2. That was a few miles northeast where the postoffice (not the township) of Cotton Hill was later located. The Lewises later became well-to-do. They probably bought a copy.

One must understand that there was no such place as Ball Township in 1832. No townships had been laid out. There were just little settlements in the woods near the creeks. Very few crops had been planted on the prairies which covered most of the area, and were regarded at best as forage for cattle. Machines to turn over the deep, tangled, unyielding sod had not yet been invented. Winter winds were too cold without the shelter of trees. Southerners, especially, thought soil that would not grow trees was infertile.

You might expect the book History of Sangamon County, written in 1881, which contains about 500 pages, would have at least something about Philip Averill, even if he didn't stay long. There was no mention of Averill in Springfield. In fact, the only mention of him was on page 791, in the section about Bell Township, and the author didn't even know his first name.

101

HISTORY OF SANGAMON COUNTY

In 1832, a company of thirty-five persons came from Ohio, among whom were Abraham Lincoln and family, Isaac Clark and family, David Clark and family, Mr. Cook and others. Among other early settlers were Joseph E. Cook, Joseph Gault, Daniel Ford, Mr. Averill, John Lewis, William Ford.

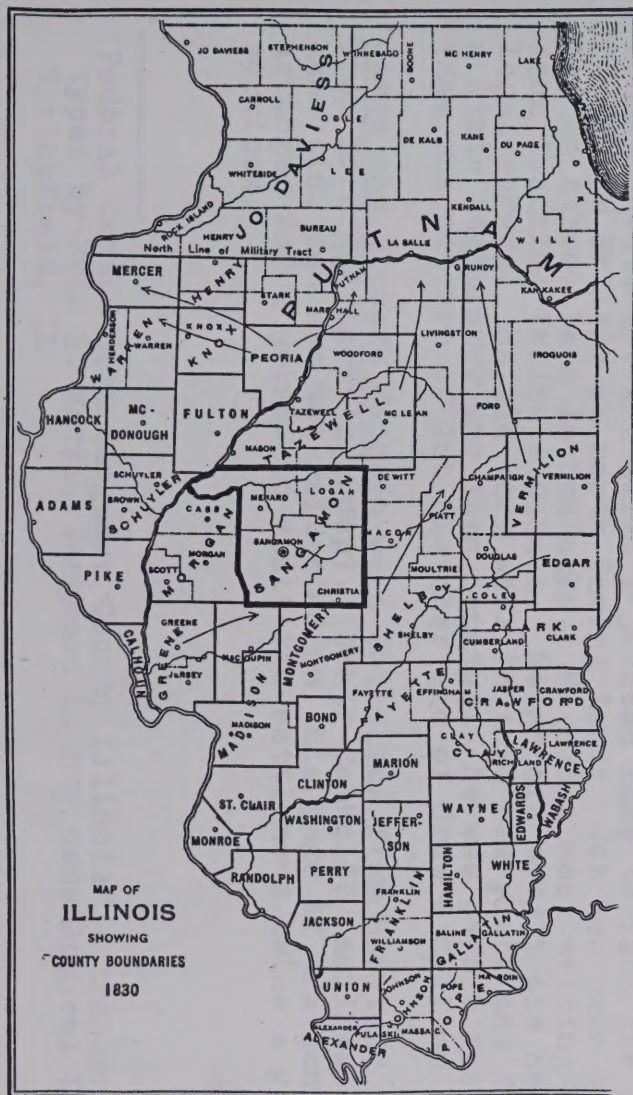
SETTLERS

The first settlers in the township were the old fashioned horse men, who brought their stock and one on his knee and the Joseph Thompson and Robert P. Thompson. The first settlement was made in 1832, by Abraham Lincoln, who was a settler. This was a new settlement, and it was said to John Ford, who built a cabin with a chimney. The first two settlers, which the others at that time, were extensively patronized.

There is a record about Philip Averill's name in listed on page 101 as a settler mentioned as Captain James A. Bell's Company in the Black Hawk war in 1832. Nothing else about the Averills.

Generally in those county histories most mention is made of those living there when the books were written and their descendants when the books go on sale, or else who made an indelible mark on the place. In this case the Averills were long gone nearly fifty years before the book was written. Of those named in the above list, then, the only ones who lived in Philip's neighborhood were William Thompson, Edwin Lewis, and Thomas Clark. Only William's descendants were there. The others must have been farther down the creek. He mentioned a settler on Section 2. That was a few miles northeast where the postoffice (not the township) of Boston Hill was later located. The lawless later became well-to-do. They probably bought a copy.

The next statement that there was no such place as Bell Township in 1832. No township had been laid out. There were just little settlements in the woods near the creek. Very few groups had been planted on the prairie which covered most of the area, and were regarded at best as forage for cattle. Machinery to turn over the deep, tanned, rotting logs had not yet been invented. Winter winds were too cold without the shelter of trees. Consequently, as partially, though soil that would not grow trees was infertile.



Pages copied from 1830
Federal census, Sangamon
County IL - transcribed by
Ruth Z. Marko, Sangamon
County Genealogical Society

(Compare these names to those on the next 2 pages.)

PAGE 7/140

Samuel Hutton
Silas Harlin
Mathew Harlin
John French
James Harris
Elizabeth Harris
Noah Mason
(Masson)

James Wood
Robert Crow
Elizabeth Fletcher
Job Fletcher, Jr.
Job Fletcher
Anderson Tibbs
Sugar King
James Simpson
Richard Simpson
William Drennan
Joseph Dodds
William Hatchet
Gilbert Dodds
William Drenan
John L. Laughlin
Philo Averil
John Nuckols
Daniel Esly
Martin Pulliam
John L. Drenan

0-2-3-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-2-2-0-1
0-1-0-1-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-1-0-0-1
0-1-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-2-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
2-2-0-0-0-1-1
0-1-2-1-0-0-1
0-0-2-1-0-0-0-0-1
2-2-1-0-1-0-1
3-1-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-2-1-2-0-0-1
0-1-1-0-0-0-1
2-1-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-2-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-1

2-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
0-1-0-1-1-0-0-1
0-1-2-1-0-1
0-0-2-1-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-0-0-0-1
0-1-2-2-0-1
0-0-1-1-0-0-1
1-0-1-1-0-1
2-1-0-0-0-1
1-0-2-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-2-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-1

PAGE 8/141

John Brownell
Headley Smith
William Baldwin
Elly Noll
William Enix
James Enix
Evans Poor
Leven Hurley
Andrew Drenan
Elizabeth Laughlin
William Laughlin
William A. Clarke
Zachariah Peter
William Richardson
Jacob Metz
David Harmon
Joseph Limon
Japhet A. Ball
John Barns
Smith Ball
John L. Ball
Thomas Long
Lewis Richardson

2-1-0-0-0-1
3-3-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-2-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-1-0-0-1
0-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-3-1-0-1
1-1-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1-0-1
2-1-1-1-2-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-2-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1

1-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-1-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1
1-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-2-0-1
3-1-1
0-2-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-1
1-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
2-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-2
1-0-0-0-1

AVERILL FAMILY

Though we are not positive where the family was when they first came to Sangamon County, we do know that by the time the census was taken in 1830 they were living in the Sugar Creek settlement. (See illustrated census page, typed.) The census does not list any townships--there were none in 1830. The task, then, was to find out more about the neighbors. Finding Faragher's book was a stroke of luck. If anyone wants to buy a book, this is the one I recommend. It provides a wealth of information in a scholarly, well documented but entertaining way there is only room to touch on here. This only glosses over it, but here are a few notes about the family's immediate neighborhood in 1830.

In October 1819, when the settlement was just beginning, Methodist organizers managed to pull together over 100 settlers for a revival in the timber on the east side of Sugar Camp prairie. Several Methodist classes emerged from this. One of the classes was led by James Sims. Four or five years later this class moved to the class of John French, a tenant farmer located in "Cherry Grove," a prominent stand of timber on Panther Creek. START LOOKING AT THE CENSUS.

Methodist farmer Silas Harlan filed a claim there in 1827. The area was later renamed Harlan's Grove. A 40-acre section of magnificent timber was cleared of undergrowth and brush, and became the beautiful "Sugar Creek Camp Ground," the site of numerous religious and social gatherings.

Noah Mason, a New Englander, filed a claim in 1827 and brought his family there. Robert Crow purchased "congress land" in 1824 near his brother-in-law, Squire Job Fletcher, and built a dam and lumber mill there. Boys fished there in the summer and nude men and boys swam there in the summer, some of them riding their horses into the pool, cheered on by spectators. Thomas Black built a bridge over the creek there in 1827, linking Drennan's Prairie with Patton's Settlement. In November 1819, this Job and Mary Fletcher, a young couple with a 3-month old daughter Permelia, came from Christian County, Kentucky, and built a 3-faced camp to face the winter on Drennan's Prairie on north-facing land! Job had been a very bright boy in school back in Kentucky. He had a neat writing-hand and was soon teaching fellow students. Neighbors sought his help with legal papers. He did very well in this new place and finally became a State Legislator and then Senator. He was over 6 feet tall. (See the picture of Job Fletcher and of Crow's Mill on another page.)

James and Richard Simpson were Catholics from Maryland (descended from Lord Baltimore's group). Other Catholic families came at the same time but are not reflected on this page of the census. They arranged for a priest to visit the settlement twice a year for services.

Though we are not positive where the family was when they first came to Sangamon County, we do know that by the time the census was taken in 1830 they were living in the Sugar Creek settlement. (See illustrated census page, typed.) The census does not list any townships--there were none in 1830. The tract, then, was to find out more about the neighborhood. Finding Jackson's house was a stroke of luck. If anyone wanted to buy a house, this is the one I recommend. It provides a wealth of information in a relatively well documented but nevertheless way there is only room to town on here. This only shows over 10, but there are a few notes about the family's immediate neighborhood in 1830.

In October 1819, when the settlement was just beginning, Methodist organizers wanted to put together over 100 settlers for a revival in the timber on the east side of Sugar Creek. Several Methodist churches gathered from this. One of the churches was led by James Sloan. Four or five years later this church moved to the place of John French, a tenant farmer located in "Cherry Grove," a prominent and of timber on Panther Creek. STAY LOOKING AT THE CENSUS.

Methodist farmer Elias Harkin filed a claim there in 1837. The area was later renamed Harkin's Grove. A 60-acre section of excellent timber was cleared of undergrowth and brush, and became the beautiful "Sugar Creek Camp Ground," the site of numerous religious and social gatherings.

Josh Harkin, a New Englander, filed a claim in 1837 and brought his family there. Robert Crow purchased "congress land" in 1835 near his brother-in-law, Josiah Job Fletcher, and built a dam and lumber mill there. Boys fished there in the summer and made men and boys swim there in the winter, some of them riding their horses into the pool, cheered on by spectators. Thomas Black built a bridge over the creek there in 1837, linking Jackson's Prairie with Patton's Settlement. In November 1819, this Job and Mary Fletcher, a young couple with a 3-month old daughter Pamela, came from Christian County, Kentucky, and built a 3-sided camp to face the winter on Brennan's Prairie on north-facing land. Job had been a very bright boy in school back in Kentucky. He had a neat writing-table and soon becoming a law student. Neighbors sought his help with legal papers. He did very well in this new place and finally became a State legislator and then Senator. He was over 6 feet tall. (See the picture of Job Fletcher and of Crow's Mill on another page.)

James and Michael Simpson were Catholics from Maryland (descended from Lord Baltimore's family). Other Catholic families came at the same time but are not reflected on this page of the census. They arranged for a priest to visit the settlement twice a year for services.

AVERILL FAMILY

In the fall of 1817 the families of William Drennan, his brother Joseph Drennan, son-in-law Joseph Dodds, and neighbor George Cox loaded up their wagons in Greene County Kentucky, came across on a ferry at Shawneetown, and traveled to Woods River where they set up a winter camp. In the spring of 1818 they left the women behind tending 16 children. The four men hired a ranger to guide them up the trace to the San-gam-ma, spent a few days scouting the site, and chose a location for their homes with a clear spring on the west side of the creek. They formed a square-mile enclosure with three sides around a section of high grass that became known as "Drennan's Prairie."

The four men agreed to share work in common for the next two years, at the end of which time all four families were to have homes and farms of equal value, and good size. They cleared timber, built cabins and fences, and raised summer crops of corn and pumpkins that first summer. In the fall they returned to get their wives and children, plus others who desired to come along to settle.

Joseph Dodd's brother, Gilbert Dodds, was a lay Cumberland Presbyterian minister. He organized a congregation which he later moved to the Lick Creek settlement.

Martin Pulliam's picture and part of his family tree was told on a previous page. It may be added that his father, Robert, set up a horse mill in 1820 which was much needed but not too efficient, to grind corn for the settlers.

Daniel Easley was a Kentuckian and related to other settlers. The Easley, Nuckols, and Hutton families remained in the area and their descendants became prosperous in a later time when the prairie could be farmed and the markets in St. Louis, etc., demanded their produce. They even had tenant farmers and hired hands working for them.

Little or nothing was said about the Harris, Tibbs, King, Hatchett, Laughlin or Averill families. As for the bottom half of the page, those were people who lived in a slightly different neighborhood not far away. Judge Zachariah Peter has been told about already. He settled three miles away from the Pulliams. The only other ones who will be mentioned here are the Ball family, for whom the township was eventually named. Japhet A. Ball was involved in several endeavors. During the Black Hawk he was captain of the military unit to which Henry James Cropsey Averill was attached. Mr. Ball also had a mill in later years which he reported was mostly for the good of the community, as it brought very little profit. However, the year he said that was 1837, and that was the beginning of a severe depression.

It would be frosting on the cake if the book had told about Philo, but it did not. Besides county records, the author got some of his information from the descendants in the Sangamon County Genealogical Society, which is very nice, but no Averill stayed around to join.

In the fall of 1817 the families of William Brennan, his brother Joseph Brennan, son-in-law Joseph Babb, and nephew George Cox loaded up their horses in Greene County Kentucky, came across on a ferry at Shannestown, and traveled to Woods River where they set up a winter camp. In the spring of 1818 they left the women behind to tend the camp. The four men hired a ranger to guide them up the trace to the San Juan, spent a few days scouting the area, and chose a location for their homes with a clear spring on the west side of the creek. They formed a square-mile enclosure with fence along a section of high grass that became known as "Brennan's Prairie".

The four men agreed to share work in common for the next two years, at the end of which time all four families were to have homes and farms of equal value, and good size. They cleared timber, built cabins and fences, and raised summer crops of corn and pumpkins that first summer. In the fall they returned to get their wives and children, giving others who desired to come along to settle.

Joseph Babb's brother, Gilbert Babb, was a lay Presbyterian minister. He organized a congregation which he later moved to the Rock Creek settlement.

Harriet Pillsbury's picture and part of his family tree was told on a previous page. It may be added that his father, Robert, set up a house all in 1820 which was much needed but not too efficient, as grain corn for the settlers.

Enoch Bailey was a Kentuckian and related to other settlers. The Bailey, Baileys, and Burton families remained in the area and their descendants became prosperous in a later time when the prairie could be farmed and the markets in St. Louis, etc., demanded their produce. They even had remote farmers and hired hands working for them.

Little or nothing was said about the Harries, Tibbs, Kings, Harshets, Lambdin or Averill families. As for the bottom half of the page, those were people who lived in a slightly different neighborhood not far away. Judge Zachariah Tetter has been told about already. He settled there miles away from the Pillsburys. The only other ones who will be mentioned here are the Hall family, for whom the township was eventually named. John A. Hall was involved in several endeavors. During the black hawk he was captain of the military unit to which Henry James Cropper Averill was attached. Mr. Hall also had a mill in later years which he reported was mostly for the good of the community, as it brought very little profit. However, the year he said that was 1837, and that was the beginning of a severe depression.

It would be interesting on the case if the book had told about Pillsbury but it did not. Besides county records. The author got some of his information from the descendants in the Sangamon County Genealogical Society, which is very nice, but no Averill names around to join.

AVERILL FAMILY

Perhaps someone reading all this about early Illinois history and Sangamon County settlers will say, "She has told about everyone but the Averills." But think--how could a family living 7 or 8 years in a place like that with neighbors like those not have been affected? Norman Chancellor Averill was ten years old when they settled there and 17 or 18 when they left--those may have been the most formative years of his life.

People there had to make great use of their muscles just to subsist, and the women had it very hard. Rebecah and the girls had to work dawn to dusk. Women not only had to make all the clothes--they had to grow flax, or even gather and harvest nettles for cloth, card and spin the wool, grow vegetables, milk cows and on and on. But the boys would have gone fishing and swimming at the mill pond near their home, and joined Philo when he went to Springfield to vote. Henry would have been one of the youths receiving military training at Mr. Drennan's.

All of the children heard Mr. Pulliam tell about the Indians throwing his little neighbor babies into the boiling kettles. Even as a man Martin Pulliam had nightmares about that. No wonder Henry was anxious to fight in the Black Hawk War. Pretty fair schooling was available to the Averill children but their parents had to pay for it. Many of the early settlers were uncultured, sometimes rough, and everyone drank too much in 1830--it was a sign of the times. The Methodists had not yet started their Temperance Society meetings, but in spite of their rough edges most of those people were religious. The Averills lived within easy walking distance of the active Methodist congregation at Harlan's Grove.

The fact that Philo ran for public office proves he was considered an asset to the community. Being a Yankee probably did not help him, but it does not seem that Philo was a typical Yankee--from the time they got to Ohio the family chose to live with Southerners when they could just as easily lived in Yankee settlements instead. You can think of other examples, but don't you agree we learn a lot about people by the company they keep?

I forgot to mention something all the local histories tell about--the mosquitoes were less troublesome than in Indiana or Pope County, except in wet grass, but the horseflies on the prairie were horrible in the daytime. White horses would become pink with blood in only a few minutes, especially on their backs, forelegs and face, while traveling in the open. Riders usually traveled after sundown or very early morning, and kept their horses covered with blankets. The flies were not as bad in cleared land or in the woods but they were much larger than those nowadays. The bites were painful to man or beast and often became infected. Prairie grasses in places were as high as a man on horseback. Once they were gone in later years most of the flies went, too.

Malaria was not the problem it had been in their previous homes but there were enough mosquitoes that it did exist there. They flew unobstructed into the dark, often humid cabins.

perhaps someone reading this about early Illinois history and Madison County settlers will say, "She has told about everyone but the Averills." But think--how could a family living 7 or 8 years in a place like that with neighbors like those not have been affected? Herman Chancellor Averill was ten years old when they settled there and 19 or 18 when they left--those may have been the best formative years of his life.

People there had to make their way of their muscles just to subsist and the women had it very hard. Rebecca and the girls had to work down to dusk. Women not only had to make all the clothes--they had to grow flax, or even gather and harvest nettles for cloth, care and spin the wool, grow vegetables, milk cows and on and on. But the boys would have gone fishing and swimming at the mill pond near their home, and joined Philo when he went to Springfield to join. Henry would have been one of the youths receiving military training at Ft. Brennan's.

All of the children heard Mr. Pollock tell about the Indians showing his little neighbor babies into the rolling ketles. Even as a man Martin Pollock had nightmares about that. No wonder Henry was anxious to fight in the Black Hawk War. Pretty fair schooling was available to the Averill children but their parents had to pay for it. Many of the early settlers were uneducated, sometimes too, and everyone drank too much in 1830--it was a sign of the times. The Methodists had not yet started their Temperance Society meetings, but in spite of their rough edges most of those people were religious. The Averills lived within easy walking distance of the active Methodist congregation at Nathan's Grove.

The fact that Philo ran for public office proves he was considered an asset to the community. Being a Yankee probably did not help him, but it does not seem that Philo was a typical Yankee--from the time they got to Ohio the family chose to live with Southerners and they could just as easily lived in Yankee settlements. Instead, you can think of other examples, but don't you agree we learn a lot about people by the company they keep?

I forgot to mention something all the local histories tell about--the mosquitoes were less troublesome than in Indiana or Ohio County, except in wet grass, but the mosquitoes on the prairie were terrible in the daytime. While horses would become pink with blood in only a few minutes, especially on their backs, forelegs and face, while traveling in the open. Riders usually traveled after sundown or very early morning, and kept their horses covered with blankets. The flies were not as bad in cleared land or in the woods but they were much larger than those nowadays. The flies were painful to man or beast and often became infected. Prairie grasses in places were as high as a man on horseback. Once they were gone in later years most of the flies went, too.

Relaxing was not the problem it had been in their previous homes but there were enough examples that it did exist there. They flew undisturbed into the cars, often behind cabins.

AVERILL FAMILY

The following winter of 1830-31 is known in Illinois history as "The winter of the Big Snow" - the snowiest winter in history of the state. Some settlers gave up in disgust and went back where they came from the next spring. This is related in various county histories. That for Menard County (then part of Sangamon) relates, "One of the most conspicuous chronological landmarks in the history of Menard County, and all of central Illinois, for that matter, is the "winter of the deep snow." Old settlers, in fixing remote dates, use this as the average mother uses the birth of her children; she says, 'It was the winter after John was born.' The old settler says, 'It was just after the deep snow.' At the old settlers' annual meetings they have badges that are worn by all who were here before 1830, which are inscribed, 'Snow Bird.'"

The book about Springfield says, "A great natural disaster occurred that would divert Springfield's attention from problems for a time. The autumn of 1830 was wet and mild until Christmas Eve. Then a foot of snow fell. It continued steadily for nine weeks, and piled up to four or five feet everywhere. The temperature ranged from freezing to 20° below zero. Most of the corn had not yet been harvested and food was scarce. Mr. Enos saved many lives by delivering wood with oxen and a sled. Horses weren't able to get through. Hogs and fowl died by the hundreds, prairie chickens and deer became almost extinct; and several men lost their way and died pathetically close to settlements. Those who arrived in time to witness the "Great Snow" as it came to be called, were ever after known as Snow Birds. The frightening isolation during the snowstorm made settlers acutely aware of their poor transportation facilities.

A year after that, in the Spring of 1832, the settlers there and in all the surrounding counties became very apprehensive about what they regarded as aggression on the part of the Indians. Keokuk, chief of the Sauk and Fox Indians, had moved his people across the Mississippi in accordance with a treaty about 1830. A splinter group under Black Hawk decided not to honor it and led his supporters back to their planting grounds in a defiant, belligerent fashion. Many of the settlers had a vivid memory of the atrocities during the War of 1812 and even suspected the British were stirring the Indians to war again. Even some Indians hoped help would come from Canada but they were mistaken.

Many books have been written about the Black Hawk War. Some of them represent that desperate, starving, practically defenseless followers of Black Hawk, including squaws and children, were hunted to extinction by ruthless, aggressive armed soldiers. Whatever the truth may be, the settlers around Sugar Creek saw it as protecting their homes and families from massacre.

Private Henry James Cropsey, 22½ years old, who had participated in the military drills at Drennan's, started out with a horse, but

"The Black Hawk War 1831-2" Vol I, Illinois Volunteers -
Illinois State Historical Society

"Index to Indian Wars Pensions 1892-1926" Vol 1, page 57 -
Virgil D. White

The following winter of 1830-31 is known in Illinois history as "the winter of the big snow" - the snowiest winter in history of the state. Some settlers gave up in disgust and went back where they came from the next spring. This is related in various county histories. That for Kenard County (then part of Sangamon) related: "One of the most conspicuous chronological landmarks in the history of Kenard County, and all of central Illinois, for that matter, is the 'winter of the deep snow.' Old settlers, in fact, remember that the average farmer uses the first of his children, and says, 'It was the winter after John was born.' The old settlers say, 'It was just after the deep snow.' At the old settlers' annual meetings they have badges that are worn by all who were here before 1830, which are inscribed, 'Snow Bird.'"

The book about Springfield says, "A great natural disaster occurred that would divert Springfield's attention from problems for a time. The autumn of 1830 was wet and mild until Christmas Eve. Then a foot of snow fell. It continued steadily for nine weeks, and piled up to four or five feet everywhere. The temperature ranged from freezing to 30 below zero. Most of the corn had not yet been harvested and food was scarce. Mr. Jones saved many lives by delivering wood with oxen and a sled. However, women's sleds to get through. Hogs and fowl died by the hundreds, people's chickens and geese became almost worthless, and several men lost their way and died pathetically close to settlements. Those who arrived in time to witness the 'Great Snow' as it came to be called, were ever after known as 'Snow Birds.' The frightening isolation during the snowstorm made settlers actually aware of their poor transportation facilities."

A year after that, in the Spring of 1832, the settlers there and in all the surrounding counties became very apprehensive about what they regarded as aggression on the part of the Indians. Thomas, chief of the Sauk and Fox Indians, had moved his people across the Mississippi in accordance with a treaty about 1830. A splinter group under Black Hawk decided not to honor it and led his supporters back to their planting grounds in a defiant, belated fashion. Many of the settlers had a vivid memory of the atrocities during the war of 1812 and even suspected the Indians were stirring the Indians to war again. Even some Indians hoped help would come from Canada but they were mistaken.

Many books have been written about the Black Hawk War. Some of them represent that desperate, starving, practically defenseless followers of Black Hawk, including women and children, were hunted to extinction by ruthless, aggressive armed soldiers. However, the truth may be, the settlers around Sugar Creek saw it as protecting their homes and families from massacre.

Private Henry James Gregory, 32 1/2 years old, who had participated in the military affairs of Burnham's, started out with a horse, but

column states also that Matthew Duncan was a "priv. from 20 Ap to 25 Ap. inc."

¹ Summers was originally captain of a company, later commanded by Seth Pratt, in which Leighton and Burton were also first enrolled. The company was formed in Morgan County—at Beardstown, according to the April 28 roll, although the mustering-out roll states that company members were entitled to transportation back to Jacksonville. Duncan was enrolled in Fayette County. The other staff members were enrolled in Sangamon County, with the possible exception of John L. Thompson, about whose war service and enrollment nothing else is known.

² Thomas Long arrived at Beardstown as captain of a company, according to John Carroll Power's *Sangamon County* (1876), 465. The only two pieces of evidence corroborating this statement are confusing, inasmuch as each points to Long's having been captain of a different company.

Jacob Ebey's company was enrolled, the muster roll states, "by Major Long." Customarily, companies were enrolled by their original commanders—thus it would seem that Long was the first captain of Ebey's company.

More direct evidence, however, points to his having commanded the company known as Japhet A. Ball's. The record book of William Thomas, brigade quartermaster (in IHI: BHW Coll.), shows that provisions were issued to Captain Ebey's company on April 28 and 29 and to Captain Long's company on April 27 and 29. All of the men under Captain Long to whom supplies were issued were members of the company later commanded by Ball.

It is possible, of course, that both companies were united under Long's command until the battalion was organized at Beardstown.

COMPANY OF CAPTAIN JAPHET A. BALL

Muster roll of Capt Japhet A. Ball's company of mounted men (detached for foot purposes) one of the companies of the odd Battalion commanded by Major Thomas Long now in the service of the United States commanded by Brigadier Genl Whiteside and mustered out of service on the 28th. day of May 1832

No	Names	Rank	When,	Enroled Where	By Whom
			1832	Sangamon	
1	Japhet A. Ball	Capt	April 21	County	Japhet A. Ball
2	Alexander D. Cox	1st Lieut	"	"	
3	John McCormack	2d do	"	"	
4	Joseph W. Duncan	1st Sergt	"	"	
5	James McCormack	2d do	"	"	
6	William F. Cox	3d do	"	"	
7	Charles Day	4th do	"	"	
8	Harvey Graham	1st Corporal	"	"	
9	John M Barnes	2d do	"	"	
10	Thos J. Clark	3d do	"	"	
11	Richd Cox	4d do	"	"	
12	Thos L. McKinney	Private	"	"	
13	Thomas Gatton	do	"	"	
14	Elder Massie	do	"	"	
15	Abram Lanterman	do	"	"	
16	Jonathan Coleman	do	"	"	
17	Lewis C. Jones	do	"	"	
18	Henry Averil	do	"	"	
19	Daniel Kitchum	do	"	"	
20	William Mitts	do	"	"	
21	John Brumfield	do	"	"	In hospital
22	Joseph Hazlet	do	"	"	

No	Names	Rank	When,	Enroled Where	By Whom
23	William Donner	do	"	"	
24	William Gattin	do	"	"	
25	Barnabas M. Blue	do	"	"	
26	John Hutton	do	"	"	
27	Nathan H. Spears	do	"	"	
28	Salmon W. Hawse	do	"	"	
29	Morris R. Menicks	do	"	"	
30	William McCormack	do	"	"	
31	Jesse Mitts	do	"	"	
32	Charles Smith	do	"	"	
33	John Ball	do	"	"	
34	Garret Tempe	do	"	"	
35	James Ward	do	"	"	
					Remarks
36	Robert B. Sexton	do	"	"	
37	John Porry	do	"	"	in hospital
38	Saml C. Hampton	do	"	"	on extra duty
39	Moses Wright	do	"	"	
40	John Kendall	do	"	"	
41	John D. Bagby	do	"	"	
42	John Gately	do	"	"	
43	Abram Howard	do	"	"	
44	Thomas Cook	do	"	"	
45	Daniel Waters	do	"	"	
46	Robert Patton	do	"	"	
47	Thomas Swearingen	do	"	"	in hospital
48	John Vincent	do	"	"	

I certify on honor that this muster roll exhibits a true statement of Capt Japhet A. Ball's Company of mounted volunteers of Illinois Militia detached for foot purposes. and that the remarks set opposite their names of the respective men are accurate & just

Signed at the mouth of Fox river in the State of Illinois. LaSalle County this 28th of May 1832

Japhet A. Ball Capt

CC, IHI: Stevens Coll. IHI also has a photostat of the mustering-out roll in DNA, which was signed by Ball and has the Nathaniel Buckmaster certificate of service in the handwriting of David Prickett. Only two names are spelled differently on the DNA roll: Nos. 31, Jesse Mitts, and 47, Thomas Swearingen.

The Stevens Coll. also contains a mustering-in roll made out and signed by John J. Hardin at Beardstown, 50 miles from the place of enrollment, April 29, 1832. The Hardin roll lists only forty-three men, omitting these eight on the roll above: 5, James McCormack; 6, William F. Cox; 9, John M. Barnes; 11, Richard Cox; 45,

Daniel Waters; 46, Robert Patton; 47, Thomas Swearingen; and 48, John Vincent. Three men on the Hardin roll are not given in the mustering-out roll. They are Slon R. Green and Benjamin Howard, both of whom joined the battalion staff, and William Sollers, who apparently transferred to the company of William Glens in the 3d Regiment.

No corporals are designated on the Hardin roll, and the sergeants are given as follows: 1st, Harvey Graham; 2d, Ben. Howard; 3d, Joseph M. ("W." above) Duncan; and 4th, Charles Day.

Variations in spelling as given on Hardin's

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
CHICAGO, ILL. 60607

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
CHICAGO, ILL. 60607

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
CHICAGO, ILL. 60607

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
CHICAGO, ILL. 60607

AVERILL FAMILY

his company was dismounted for tactical purposes. He spent the spring tramping through woods and mosquitoey swamps trying to find Indians. One result of his efforts in the military, and those of his companions, is that after that it was safe for the Bounty Lands to be settled.

The Averill Family must have moved there right away, for on 7 March 1833 his sister Charlotte Baker Averill married Nicholas Royal Teas in McDonough County, hitherto part of the Bounty Lands.

By then Philo was 65 years old and Rebecah 58. Most of the children were grown, though Norman and Allen were still in their teens. Details of the family's experiences in this new home will be told in the next chapter, about Great-great Grandfather Norman Chancellor Averill, though Philo and Rebecah lived there another eleven years. McDonough County was a primitive place when they arrived there but very pleasant, with nice Methodist neighbors and good friends to talk to.

The mother, Rebecah (Rice) Averill, died 9 September 1844, age 69. Philo died a month later on 22 October 1844, age 76. They did get to enjoy some of their grandchildren, including the baby born in 1843 whom Philo named for his hero, William Henry Harrison Averill. Many more grandchildren were born after they died.

Children of Philo and first wife, Betsy (Boardman) Averill:

Malissa	?1789	ca. 1809	Timothy Haskell
Orilla	?1790	-	Became a Shaker

Children of Philo and second wife, Charlotte (Baker) Averill:

Rowlen Green	?1792	ca. 1812	Name unknown
Betsy	?1794	-	Became a Shaker
Electa	?1796	ca 1813	Nehemiah Hurd

Children of Philo and third wife, Rebecah (Rice) Averill:

Henry James Cropsey	20 Jul 1809	10 Sep 1840	Huldah Ann Warren
		1 Jan 1861	Sarah Liggett
Charlotte Baker	Feb 1811	7 Mar 1833	Nicholas Royal Teas
Eliza D.	1813	10 Mar 1839	Levi Warren
+Norman Chancellor	11 Jan 1815	1 Aug 1844	Martha E. Clayton
Allen Wiley	4 Feb 1817	7 Dec 1847	Sarah Clayton
		20 Apr. 1853	Mary Ann Delbridge

The company was organized for practical purposes. He spent the spring tramping through woods and swamps trying to find Indians. The result of his efforts in the military and those of his companions, is that after what he was told for the money lands to be settled.

The Avertil family must have moved there right away, for on 3 March 1855 his sister Charlotte Baker Avertil married Nicholas Royal in McDonough County, Illinois part of the money lands.

By then Philo was 5 years old and Rebecca 2. Most of the children were grown. Though Herman and Allen were still in their teens. The wife of the family's experience in this new land will be told in the next chapter. About Great-Grandfather Norman Chancellor Avertil, though Philo and Rebecca lived there another eleven years. McDonough County was a primitive place when they arrived there but very pleasant, with nice Methodist neighbors and good friends to talk to.

The mother, Rebecca (Baker) Avertil, died 3 September 1864, age 53. Philo died a month later on 22 October 1864, age 50. They did not to enjoy some of their grandchildren, including the baby born in 1855 when Philo named for his hero, William Henry Harrison Avertil. Many were grandchildren were born after that time.

Children of Philo and first wife, Mary (Westman) Avertil:

William	17982	ca. 1809	Timothy Mackell
Philo	17990	-	Became a doctor

Children of Philo and second wife, Charlotte (Baker) Avertil:

Rowland Green	17993	ca. 1812	Name unknown
Betsy	17994	-	Became a doctor
Eliza	17995	ca. 1813	Rebecca Ward

Children of Philo and third wife, Rebecca (Baker) Avertil:

Henry James Hoxsey	20 Jan 1809	10 Sep 1860	Holden Ann Warren
Charlotte Baker	Feb 1811	1 Jan 1861	Samuel Hoxsey
Eliza D.	1813	7 Mar 1873	Nicholas Royal Tans
Norman Chancellor	11 Jan 1815	10 Mar 1878	Ivett Warren
Allen Wiley	4 Feb 1817	1 Aug 1864	Martha E. Clayton
		7 Dec 1867	Samuel Clayton
		20 Apr 1871	Mary Ann Dalbridge

AVERILL FAMILY

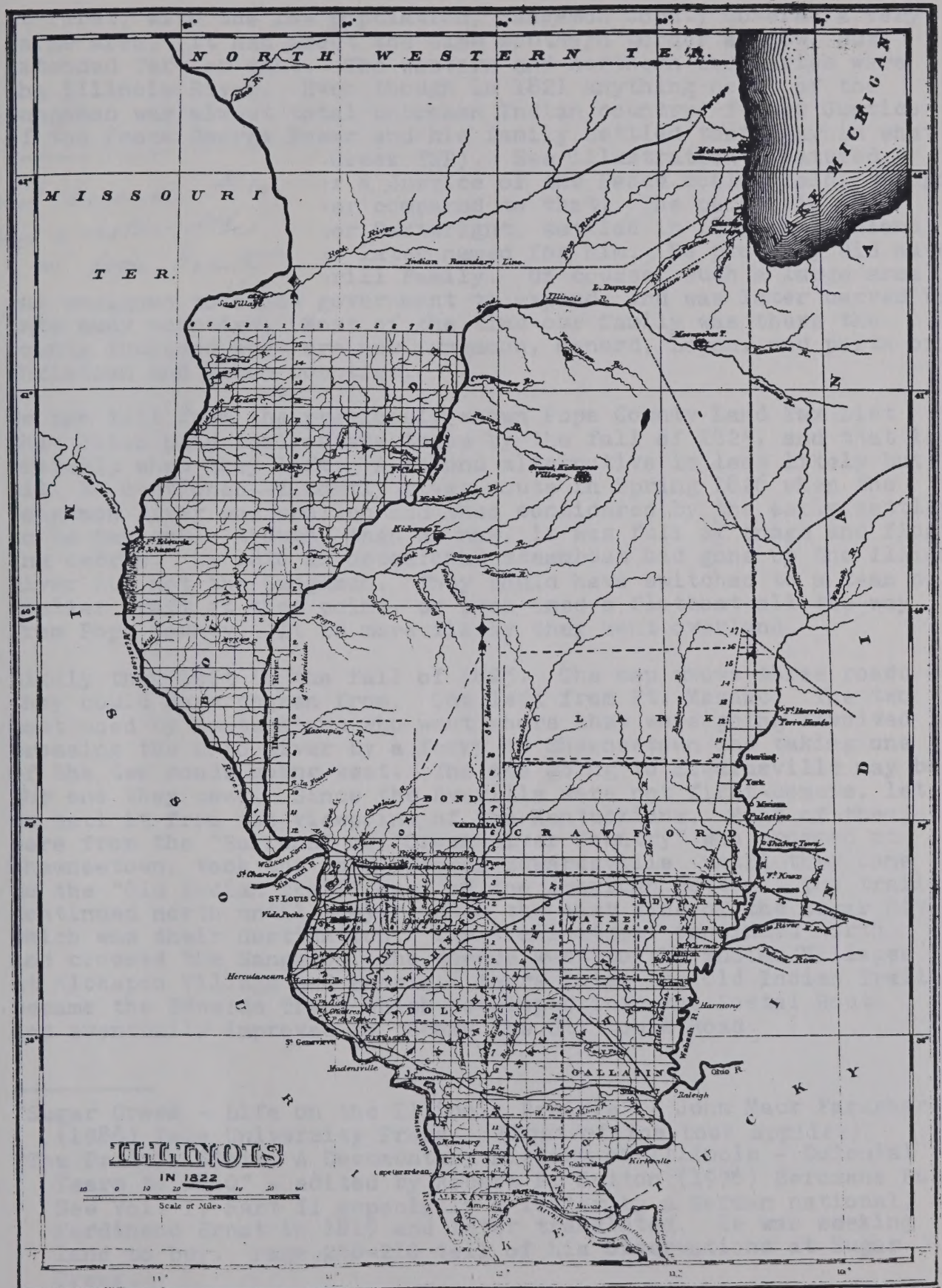
The family's next move was farther north, to the prairie country of Sangamon County, Illinois. They did not remain in the area very long, but we do want to know what their lives were like when they were there. At the time of the move Philo was 58, Rebecah 51, Henry 16½, Charlotte 15, Eliza 13, Norman 10, and Allen 8. No evidence has been found yet that the families of Electa Hurd or Melissa Haskell were with them, or that other Pope County people came with them. By 1825 many people had heard of the rich soil of that yet rather primitive new area, and that the government had not yet sold all of the claims. Being originally from the north, Philo and Rebecca realized the climate there would be healthier. Another small recession occurred about that time, but we don't know if it affected them so much as their pioneer spirit. They did choose a spot with good Methodist neighbors nearby.

When Illinois had become a state in 1818, only the required 40,000 (if it was really that many) people were living there, almost all of them near the rivers in the southern part of the state. A few were along the Wabash, some--like the Averills--near the Ohio, but the bulk of them near the Mississippi. The last set consisted of two groups, the original French with those who joined them on the Kaskaskia and Cahokia rivers, and the mostly Southern squatters who had settled on the rich floodplain called the American Bottom, commencing right after the Revolutionary War.

Perhaps this map of Illinois in 1822 will demonstrate that the Averill Family really did seek the wilderness again. It shows all of the surveyed areas, consisting of those just described and the military Bounty Lands set aside for War of 1812 veterans. Actually the Bounty Lands could not be settled for several more years because the Sauk and Fox Indians there were much too fierce. The Kickapoo occupied most of the unsurveyed land, though under a treaty signed in 1819 they agreed to consider moving to Missouri. Both sets of Indians had supported the British in the War of 1812 and bitterly hated the settlers. A few of the largest Kickapoo villages are shown on the map. Though the capitol had been moved to Vandalia, still on the Kaskaskia River, settlement inland that far north had occurred only sparsely. Nearly everything north of Vandalia was unsettled, even in 1825 when the Averills moved farther north.

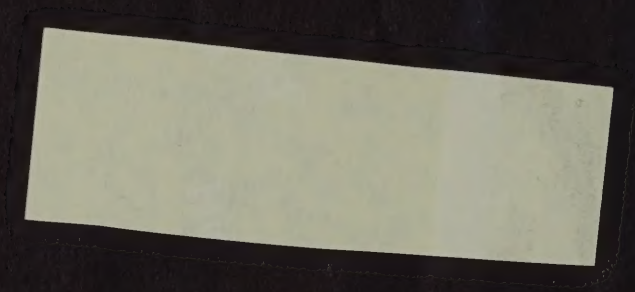
This map omits one important element--Sangamon County was surveyed in 1821 and made into a county with its seat at Springfield. Maybe the mapmaker considered it unimportant since only about 500 people lived there. To find the site of Springfield on the map, locate the Sangamon River, easy to spot on the white part of the map. Next locate the Sugar River flowing into it from the south. Springfield was slightly to the lower left of the juncture. Everything to the north was unbroken Indian country, and so was most of everything south nearly to Vandalia. In the spring of 1826, the Averill Family was living in sort of an "island" of 500 or so white settlers surrounded by wilderness.

AVERILL FAMILY





Mentioned because Philo
had been a Justice of the
Peace in Pope County



AVERILL FAMILY

At first, with the low population, Sangamon County covered a very large area. It had about the same southern border as now, but extended farther east. The western and northern boundaries were the Illinois River. Even though in 1821 anything north of the Sangamon was almost total unbroken Indian country, future Justice of the Peace George Power and his family settled that year in what became Cantrall (Fancy Creek TWP). See illustration--featured mostly to show the power a Justice of the Peace could wield, though it is doubtful Philo ever compared to that. The person in the other picture, Rev. Peter Cartwright, settled in 1823 on Richland Creek. The township was later named for him. He probably did have an influence on the Averill Family. Of course, such a large area was designed to allow government to expand, and was later carved up into many counties. Most of the time our family was there the county included what are now Sangamon, Menard, Logan, and parts of Christian and Macon counties.

We can tell from the previously shown Pope County Land Tax List that Philo paid real estate taxes by the fall of 1825, and that is probably when they left. A second alternative is less likely but will be mentioned--a mostly river route in Spring 1826 when the Sangamon River was swollen and thus considered by the early settlers to be navigable though, then as now, it was full of snags and floating debris. By 1826 an occasional steamboat had gone up the Illinois River but not the Sangamon. They could have switched to a team or smaller craft at that point, or even used a flatboat all the way from Pope County. It is more likely they went overland.

Likely they left in the fall of 1825. The map shows three roads they could have chosen from. One left from Ft. Masaac. The two most used by Kentuckians who went where they were going involved crossing the Ohio River by a ferry to Shawneetown and taking one of the two roads going west. The one going to Edwardsville may be the one they used. Since the Averills were not first-comers, let us tell it from the viewpoint of the Kentuckians. Most of them were from the "Barrens" or "Green River Country" who crossed at Shawneetown, took the road towards Edwardsville until they came to the "Old Indian Trail" east of the American Bottom. The trail continued north until they reached the east side of the Sugar River, which was their destination. The trail itself continued north and crossed the Sangamon, and thence went to the Indian Villages at Kickapoo Village and Peoria. Years later the Old Indian Trail became the Edwards Trace which developed into the Postal Route and eventually improved to become the St. Louis Road.

"Sugar Creek - Life on the Illinois Prairie" - John Mack Faragher (1986) Yale University Press (Most of the book applies)

"The Prairie State, A Documentary History of Illinois - Colonial Years to 1860" - edited by Robert P. Sutton (1976) Eerdmans Publ. See Vol. I, Part II especially a letter by a German national, Ferdinand Ernst in 1819 and later translated. He was seeking land to buy. Page 208-210 tell of his observations at Sugar Creek.

At first, with the low population, Jackson County covered a very large area. It had about the same southern border as now, but extended farther east. The western and northern boundaries were the Illinois River. Even though in 1821 anything north of the Jackson was almost total unbroken Indian country, there doubtless was a Peace River and his family settled that year in what became Central (Perry Creek) Co. See Illinois--History. It is doubtful if he ever compared to that. The person in the other picture, Rev. Peter Cartwright, settled in 1823 on Williams Creek. The township was later named for him. He probably did have an influence on the Avellia family. Of course, such a large area was destined to allow government to expand, and was later carved up into many counties. Most of the time our family was near the county included what are now Jackson, Howard, Logan, and parts of Christian and Mason counties.

We can tell from the previously shown Pope County land tax list that this paid real estate taxes by the fall of 1823, and that is probably when they left. A second alternative is less likely but will be mentioned--a family river route in Spring 1823 when the Jackson River was swollen and some considered by the early settlers to be navigable though, then as now, it was full of snags and float- ing debris. By 1825 an occasional steamboat had gone up the Illinois River but not the Jackson. They could have waited to a time of earlier date at that point, or even used a flatboat all the way from Pope County. It is more likely they went westward.

likely they left in the fall of 1823. The map shows three roads they could have chosen from. One left from Ft. Jackson. The two most used by Kentuckians who went west were going through the Ohio River to a ferry to Hannestown and taking one of the roads north west. The one going to Evansville was the one they used. Since the Avellias were not first-comers, let us tell it from the viewpoint of the Kentuckians. Most of them were from the "Barren" or "Green River Country" and crossed at Hannestown, took the road toward Evansville until they came to the "Old Indian Trail" east of the Jackson bottom. The trail continued north until they reached the east side of the Sugar River, which was their destination. The trail itself continued north and crossed the Jackson, and hence went to the Indian Village at Kinkaid Village and Fortia. Years later the Old Indian Trail became the Howard Trace which developed into the Howard Road, and eventually improved to become the St. Louis Road.

"Sugar Creek - life on the Illinois frontier" - John Mack Ketchum (1928) Yale University Press. (Most of the book applies to the State, a Documentary History of Illinois - Colonial 1763 to 1820" - edited by Robert E. Elston (1976) University of Illinois Press. Vol. 1, Part II especially a letter by a German settler, Ferdinand from 1819 and later translated. He was seeking land to buy. Page 208-210 tell of his observations at Sugar Creek.

Peter Cartwright



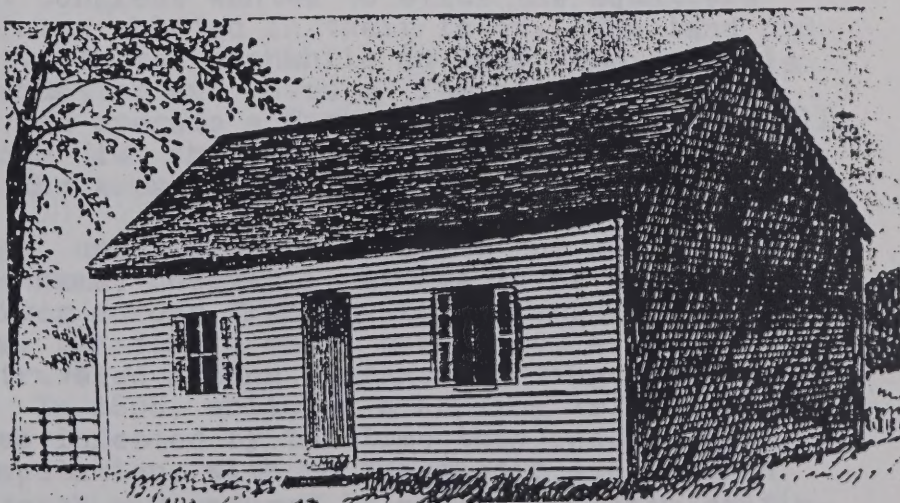
Courtesy, SVC, Lincoln Library

Peter Cartwright (1785-1872) American Methodist clergyman known as the "backwoods preacher," was born in Amherst Co. VA and moved with his parents to Kentucky where he was converted at a camp meeting in 1801 from the "evil" pleasures of card playing, horse racing, and dancing, to God and Methodism. The tall, brawny Cartwright was a natural orator who took on the devil as his personal enemy. At age 18 he was a full fledged circuit riding preacher. He preached as if "the devil had no rights and never apologized for his attacks on Satan's kingdom." At his services they sang songs like,

"A Methodist is my name
And I hope to live and die the same.
Oh, whip the devil around the stump
And hit him a crack at every jump."

He had an unmitigated hatred of slavery which prompted him to settle at Richland Creek, Sangamon County IL, with his wife and family in 1823. Besides preaching he engaged in local politics, even running unsuccessfully against Abraham Lincoln for congress. Philo and Rebecah Averill and the children must have listened to Rev. Cartwright many times, both in Sangamon County and in Hillsgrove in McDonough County, for he preached in both places many times. This man wrote a very interesting autobiography.

This is a picture of the courthouse at Cantrall where Justice of the Peace George Power presided during the first half of the 19th century. Abraham Lincoln presented many cases there in his early career as a lawyer.



Sources used for both sketches--"Prairie of Promise - Springfield & Sangamon County, IL" - Edward J. Russo (1983) and articles in American Peoples Encyclopedia.

Robert Carter (1852-1922)
American Methodist minister known
as the "abolition preacher" who
came to America in 1845 and worked
with his people to help them escape
from slavery. He was converted at a camp meeting
in 1841 from the "evil" pleasures
of card playing, horse racing, and
dancing. He had met William Lloyd
Hall, known for his work as a revival
preacher who took on the devil as his
personal enemy. At age 18 he was a
hall-fighter himself, fighting preachers
he preached as if "the devil had no
rights and never apologized for his
actions on Satan's kingdom." At his
services they sang songs like:
"A Methodist is my name
And I hope to live and die the same
Oh, who the devil knows the story
And his sin a track at every turn."



He had an unimpaired sense of slavery which prompted him to
write at Abolition Lane, Lancaster County, Pa. with his wife and
family in 1851. Besides preaching he engaged in local politics,
even running unsuccessfully against William Lincoln for Governor
of Pennsylvania in 1852. He and his wife were active in
helping and rescuing slaves, both in Lancaster County and in
Maryland. He was a very interesting personality.



This is a picture
of the residence
at Abolition Lane
Lancaster County
Pennsylvania where
he lived during the
1850s.
William Lincoln
Governor of
Pennsylvania in
1852.

Source used for both sketches--"Facts of Pennsylvania History"
Philadelphia & Lancaster County, Pa. - Charles L. Huns (1903) and
articles in American People's Encyclopedia.

AVERILL FAMILY

Perhaps the easiest way to tell about the settlement of Sangamon County is to give a little narrative about the very first settler. When the locals formed their Old Settlers Club years later, three or four families claimed they were first. Finally a committee was formed to search out the truth. After much deliberation they decided that, though others broke ground first, the first to build a residence was peg-legged Robert Pulliam. Here, then, is his story.

Robert's cabin was built in October, 1817. Some idealistic early writers made it sound like he came, Moses-like, to settle on good ground in the "howling wilderness." The truth is he knew exactly where he was and why he came there. He took advantage of a set of circumstances to expropriate a desirable spot from Kickapoo Indians he knew were absent looking over land in Missouri the government was trying to persuade them to remove to. He wanted to be first to stake a claim.

Robert Pulliam was the grandson of Scotch-Irish immigrants. His father, John, grew up in the Shenandoah Valley. About 1770 he settled in Henry County, VA and got married. Robert was born there in 1776, the oldest son. John fought with the Henry County Militia in the Revolutionary War. He was poor and rich planters owned most of the land in Henry County, so soon after the war he took wife and three little ones to Kentucky where he hoped to buy land. Before they could save enough money history repeated itself, with rich planters driving the price way too high.

In 1796 the Pulliams and several others in the same circumstances crossed the Ohio River and squatted on the American Bottom, a rich floodplain, not far from the French settlements. Robert's mother died, probably of malaria, and the oldest sister took over raising the other children. By then there were six of them. No one could buy land until it was surveyed. The claims of the French-speaking people already living there had to be sorted out first, a very difficult task. At first Congress wanted to evict the squatters but eventually public opinion shifted in their favor. The land did not go on sale until 1815. In the meanwhile in 1808 John sold his improvements to another squatter and moved a few miles up the Kaskaskia River to squat and operate a ferry. His heirs were finally able to secure title. John died in 1812, a poor farmer who craved land all his life and worked hard but never got to own any.

Robert grew up to be tough, uncultured, illiterate but shrewd. (He did learn how to sign his name, however.) At age 26 he married and staked a claim at Wood River across from St. Louis, subsisting by raising hogs in the woods, planting a small cornfield, a garden, and hunting game. He often traveled a long distance hunting and was good at dodging Indians. In 1808, while on a hunting trip his leg was injured. It became so infected by the time they reached help that his only hope was amputation, with no anesthetic except corn liquor. He gritted his teeth and endured it stoically, then continued his active life with a peg leg.

AVERILL FAMILY

Being a long range hunter, Robert Pulliam learned of the Indian camp near the San-gam-ma where they hunted in the winter and made maple sugar in the groves in early spring, some of which was sold very profitably. The Kickapoos had fought on the side of the British during the War of 1812 and hated the settlers bitterly. Massacres were frequent, and for that the Indians were regarded with loathing and contempt.

When the Pulliam's son Martin was seven years old, his next-door neighbor, Mrs. Reagan and her six children were scalped while walking in the woods. Some women were tomahawked while making soap in big kettles in their own yards. The Indians grabbed their screaming babies and threw them into the boiling water. (See the picture of Martin Pulliam and his wife on another page. They lived three doors from Philo Averill and his family when the 1830 census was taken.)

Finally, after a series of land-grabbing treaties, the Kickapoos, hungry and broken-spirited, agreed in 1817 to look over the tracts near the Osage River in Missouri the government was offering in exchange for their land in Illinois. Robert Pulliam had prepared for the time when something like that might happen. When the Woods River land office finally opened in 1816, he sold his improvements and took the cash rather than exercise his squatter's right to buy. He moved his family back to stay with his relatives near Pulliam's Ferry. Cattle herders had been raising cattle in the woods near the American Bottom for years. In 1817 he purchased a herd of skinny cattle.

Robert knew that during late 1817 most of the Indians were away trying out the facilities at Osage River, so that fall he hired four drovers and a cook who was sister to one of them. Instead of grazing the cattle on the mast in the local woods as was the custom, they drove their cattle at the slow pace of 10 miles a day to keep them healthy, up the Old Indian Trail to the San-gam-ma. They camped near the trail on the east side of the Sugar Creek, in the maple woods at the edge of the tall grass. The cattle soon grew fat on the rich diet. The group built a cabin on that spot and stayed all winter, caring for the cattle. In the spring he put his drovers to work collecting and boiling maple sap in the woods. They had already prepared for that by lugging along all the necessary kettles and buckets. A fine profit was made when they returned to the settlement in the spring with fat cattle and a large quantity of maple sugar which sold very quickly.

Robert did not return to the Sugar Camp until after the treaty with the Indians was signed in 1819. Even then some Indians remained but they for the most part stayed north of the Sangamon River. Other settlers, perhaps hearing of Pulliam's success, or perhaps on their own initiative, took a chance on the Indians and went to Sugar Creek during the summer or fall of 1818. Some of those families did plant crops in 1818, but Pulliam and his crew had built the first cabin, and had lived there during the winter of 1817/8.

being a long time before, Robert William learned of the Indian camp near the San Juan where they lived in the winter and made their winter in the grove in early spring, some of which was sold very profitably. The Indians had bought on the side of the British during the war of 1812 and hated the Americans bitterly. However, they were friendly, and for that the Indians were respected with feeling and sympathy.

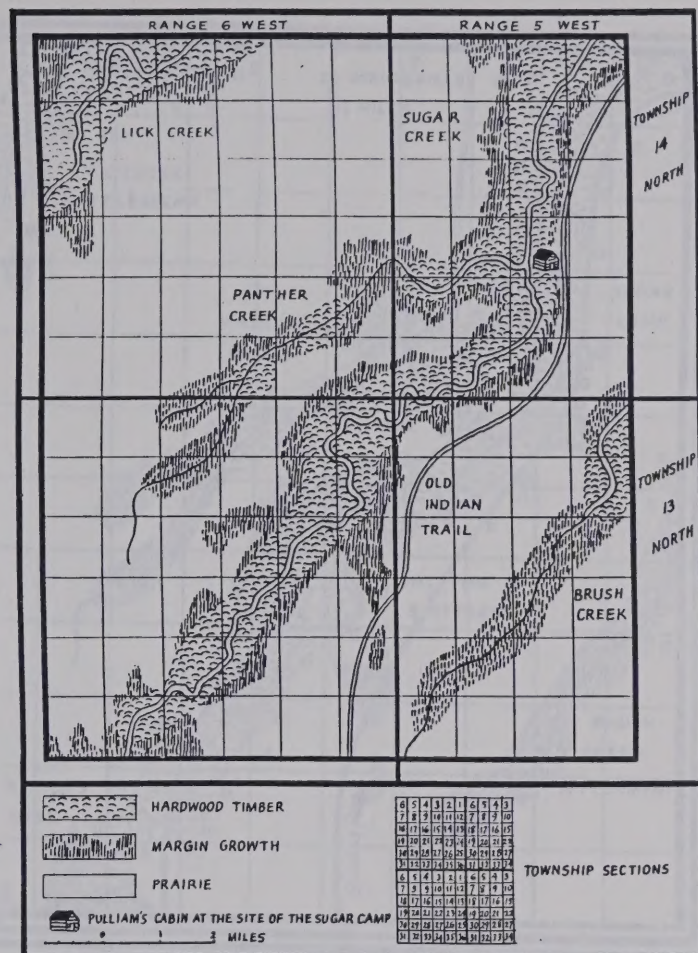
When the William's son Martin was seven years old, his next-door neighbor, Mrs. Rogers and her six children were visiting while visiting in the woods. Some women were conversing with Martin and he was sitting in their own yard. The Indians carried their axes and knives into the boiling water, then the axes and knives and then into the boiling water. Then the picture of Martin William and his wife on another page. They lived three doors from John Averill and his family when the 1812 census was taken.

Finally, after a series of land-grubbing expeditions, the Indians, hungry and broken-spirited, arrived in 1812 to look over the land near the camp river in Michigan. Robert William had purchased a license for their land in Illinois. Robert William had purchased for the time when something like that might happen. When the river land office finally opened in 1812, he said his improvement and took the camp rather than exercise his special right to buy. He moved his family back to stay with his relatives near William's ferry. Captain Rogers had been raising cattle in the woods near the American bottom for years. In 1812 he purchased a herd of thirty cattle.

Robert knew that during late 1812 most of the Indians were busy trying out the facilities at camp river, so that fall he hired four drivers and a cook who was eager to one of them. Located at the camp river on the bank of the local woods he was the master. They drove their cattle at the side of 10 miles a day to keep them healthy. On the 15th Indian trail to the San Juan River, they changed near the well on the east side of the Sugar Creek. In the night, when at the edge of the tall grass. The cattle soon grew fat on the new grass. The group built a cabin on that spot and stayed all winter, eating for the winter. In the spring he put his drivers to work on feeding and killing cattle up in the woods. They had already prepared for that by making along all the necessary facilities and supplies. A fine profit was made when they returned to the settlement in the spring with the cattle and a large quantity of maple sugar which sold very cheaply.

Robert did not return to the Sugar Camp until after the twenty with the Indians was closed in 1812. Even then some Indians remained but they for the most part stayed north of the San Juan River. Other settlers, perhaps hearing of William's success, or perhaps on their own initiative, took a chance on the Indians and went to Sugar Creek during the summer of fall of 1812. Some of these families did plant crops in 1812, but William and his crew had built the first cabin, and had lived there during the winter of 1812.

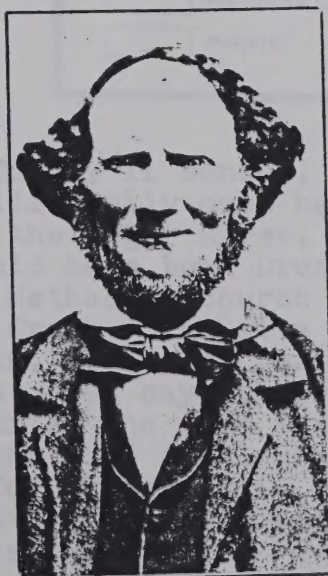
AVERILL FAMILY



Sugar Creek in 1817

Right Martin G. Pulliam (1807-72) & Lucy (Knotts) Pulliam (1812-78). This couple lived 3 doors from Philo Averill & family when the 1830 census was taken. Photo taken 20 years later. Martin, son of Robert Pulliam, said he had never used tobacco, nor tasted a drop of liquor for many years (in 1859).

- from book, "Sugar Creek" by J.M. Faragher





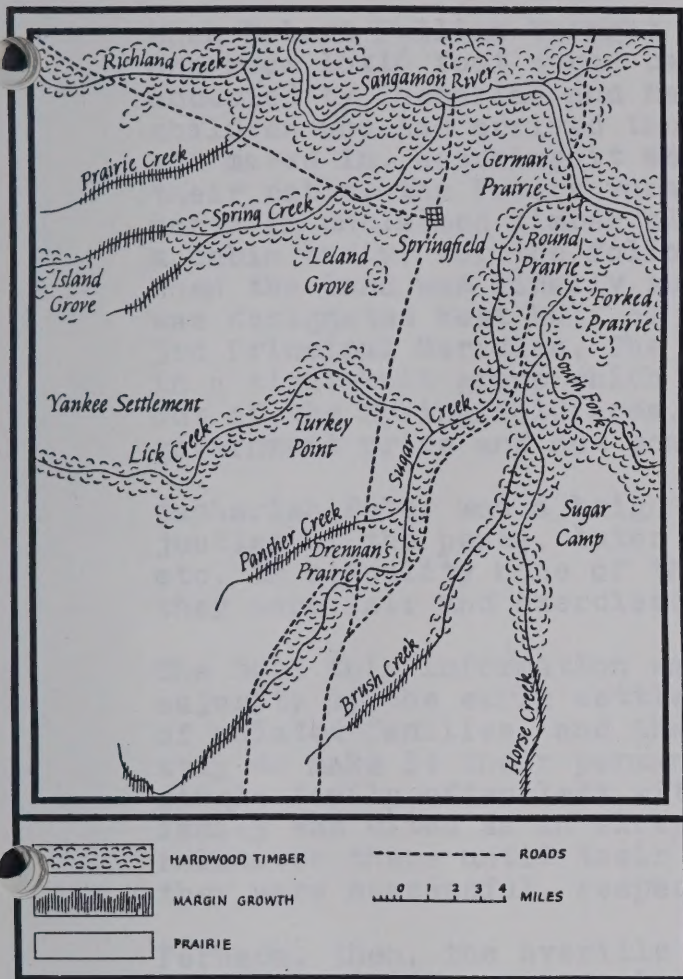
Sugar Creek in 1819

1819-1820 Martin G. Follin
 1820-1821 a boy (Follin)
 Follin (1821-22). This
 couple lived 3 years from
 Philip Averill a family who
 the 1820 census was taken.
 Follin lived 30 years later.
 Martin, son of Robert
 Follin, said he had never
 heard tobacco, nor raised a
 crop of liquor for many
 years (in 1859).

- from book, "Sugar Creek"
 by J. B. Follin

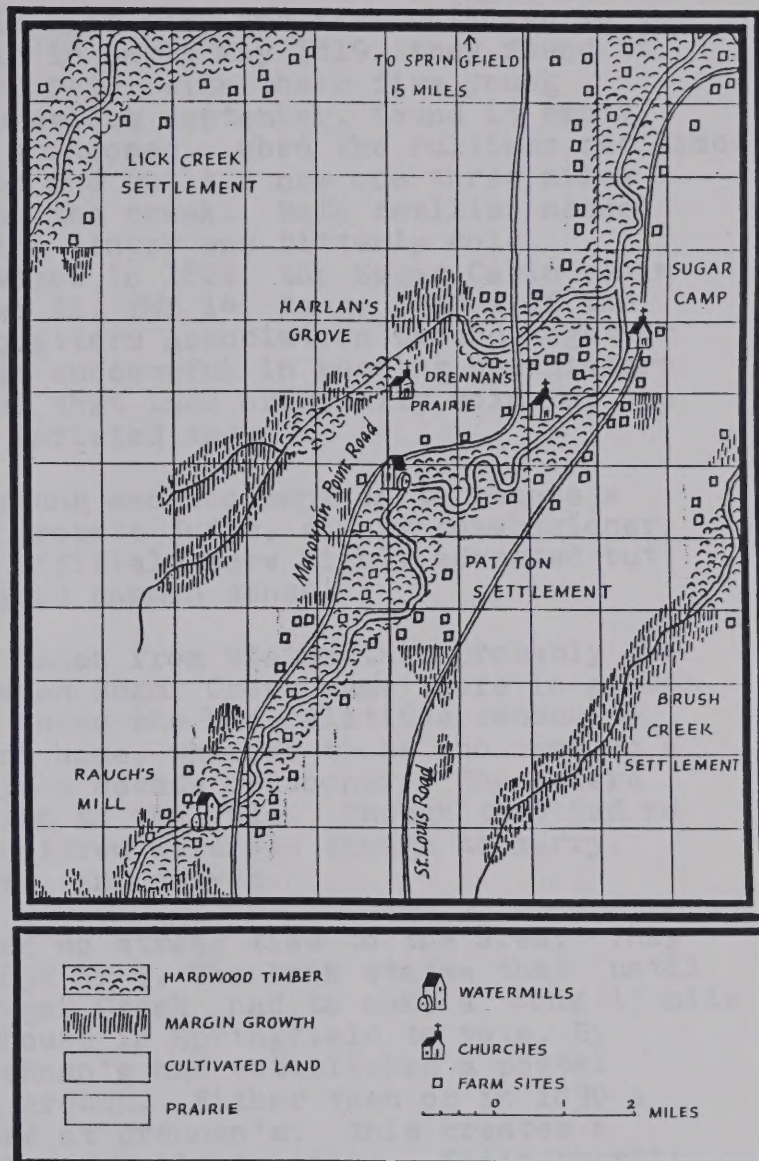


AVERILL FAMILY



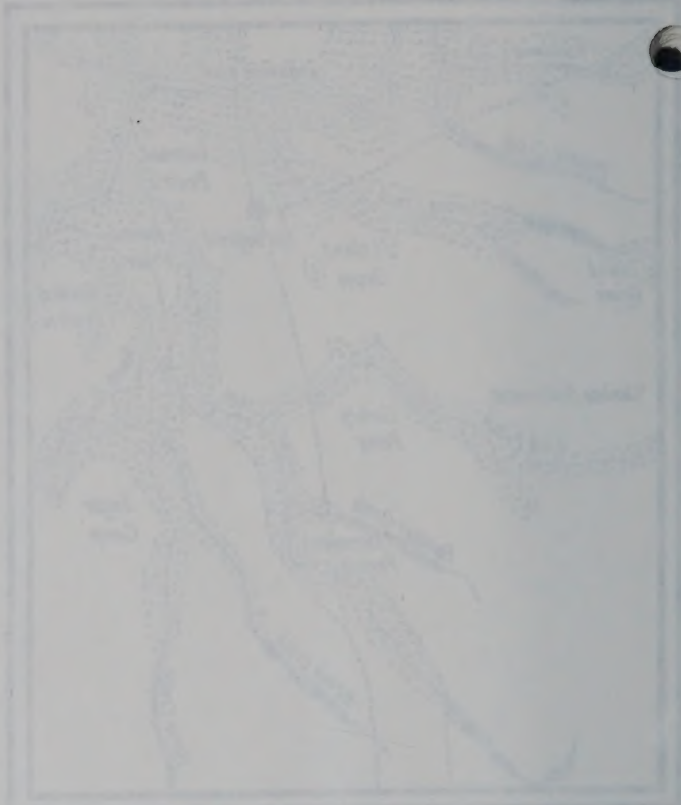
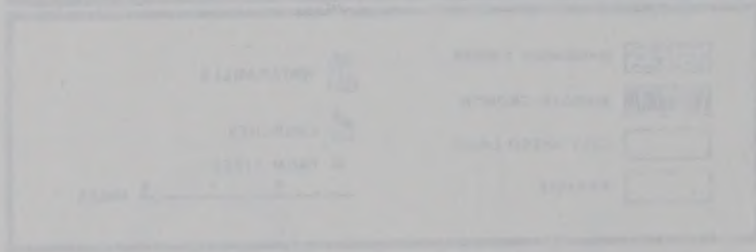
Left - The Sangamo Country
in 1830

Right - Sugar Creem in 1835



Going by the 1830 Sangamon County IL census, Page 7/140 it seems as though the Averill Family must have lived along the Panther Creek Branch of the Sugar River, probably in Harlan's Grove though it could have been Drennan's Prairie. You can see the site of the Methodist church there. The Presbyterians moved to Lick Creek. The site of Crow's mill is shown, south of the Church, on Sugar Creek near the road. Though one of the county histories says there were no bridges at all in the county until after the time the Averills were gone, Faragher's book says the Crow family built one in 1827 to give access to the mill for customers in Patton's Settlement. Perhaps it was a small private bridge for customers rather than travelers. The census page shows Robert Crow and family as neighbors of the Averills.

- from book, "Sugar Creek" by J.M. Faragher



Left - The Sugar Creek area in 1870
Right - Sugar Creek in 1870

Going by the 1870 Sugar Creek family II census, Page 7, line 15, it seems as though the Averill family must have lived along the Panther Creek branch of the Sugar Creek. Probably in Marian's Grove though it could have been between a bridge. You can see the site of the Webster's watch station. The Presbyterian moved to the creek. The site of the mill is shown, south of the church, on Sugar Creek near the road. Though one of the county clerks said there was no bridge at all in the county until after the mill was built. The mill, Panther's book says the first family built one in 1870. To give access to the mill the county built a bridge. The county clerk said a small bridge for customers rather than a railroad. The census page shows Robert Jones and family as neighbors of the Averills.

AVERILL FAMILY

When Robert Pulliam brought his wife Mary and five children to the one-room 16x16 foot sugar cabin in early May 1819, they found it occupied by Zachariah and Nancy Peter with their five young children who had arrived the previous September, found it empty, and moved in, assuming it was abandoned. When the Pulliams reclaimed their cabin, the Peters vacated and built a new one three miles north in unclaimed timber along the creek. Both families needed a cabin badly, for the following winter was bitterly cold. When the land was finally surveyed in 1821, the Sugar Cabin claim was designated West half of Sec 21, TWP 14, Range 5 West of the 3rd Principal Meridian. The Squatters Association banded together in a tight-knit group which was successful in keeping speculators out of the Springfield area, so that land originally sold for the government price and not some inflated amount.

Zachariah Peter was a bright young man who went on to become a justice of the peace, later a probate judge, county commissioner, etc. In actuality none of the officials were highly educated but they were fair and exercised good common sense.

The book this information was taken from states that probably the majority of the early settlers on Sugar Creek came there in groups of related families, and that those who had relatives tended to stay to make it their permanent home, whereas those who came as a single family often left within a decade or sooner. The Peters family was cited as an exception to the rule. Though they had no relatives there until their children were old enough to marry, they were successful, respected, and stayed.

Perhaps, then, the Averills had no strong ties to the area. They came about 1825 and left in 1832 or 3. The book states that until at least 1827 the people in Sugar Creek had to make a long 15 mile horseback ride into the Courthouse in Springfield to vote. By 1827 or a little later the Drennan's had established a postal station and military training ground. Either then or in 1830 a voting precinct was established at Drennan's. This creates a riddle which this writer has been unable to solve. Philo Averill never voted at Drennan's, as far as I can tell, yet he was living in Drennan's neighborhood when the 1830 census was taken. Only a few faded and stained old election records still exist, but the ones that do exist show Philo consistently voting at the Courthouse. The records end in 1830.

A few years ago when I first learned of the voting record I assumed the Averill family was living in or near Springfield. Now I'm inclined to think otherwise, but am by no means positive that they did not live there first and move to the Harlan's Grove section of Sugar Creek later. So that all bases will be covered, a few words about the status of the town of Springfield at the time of their arrival is in order. We will want to know about that anyway.

When Robert Avertill brought his wife Mary and five children to the one-room 1830s log cabin in early May 1831, they found it occupied by Zachariah and Nancy Foster with their five young children who had arrived the previous September. Found it empty, and moved in, assuming it was abandoned. When the Fosters returned their cabin, the Fosters vacated and built a new one three miles north in wooded areas along the creek. Both families needed a cabin badly. For the following winter was bitterly cold. When the land was finally surveyed in 1831, the Sugar Creek claim was determined west half of Sec. 21, Twp. 16, Range 2 West of the 1st Principal Meridian. The Sugar Creek Association banded together in a 1000-acre group which was successful in keeping speculators out of the Avertill area, so that land originally sold for the government price and not some inflated amount.

Zachariah Foster was a bright young man who went on to become a Justice of the Peace, later a Probate Judge, County Commissioner, etc. In factually none of the officials were highly educated but they were fair and exercised good common sense.

The book this information was taken from states that probably the majority of the early settlers on Sugar Creek came there in groups of related families, and that those who had relatives tended to stay to make it their permanent home, whereas those who came as a single family often left within a decade or sooner. The Fosters family had offered an exception to the rule. Though they had no relatives there until their children were old enough to marry, they were successful, respected, and stayed.

Perhaps, then, the Avertills had no strong ties to the area. They came about 1833 and left in 1835 or 3. The book states that until at least 1837 the people in Sugar Creek had to make a long 12 mile horseback ride into the Courthouse in Springfield to vote. By 1837 or a little later the Brennan's had established a postal station and military training ground. Either then or in 1839 a voting precinct was established at Brennan's. This created a riddle which this writer has been unable to solve. This Avertill never voted at Brennan's, as far as I can tell, yet he was living in Brennan's neighborhood when the 1838 census was taken. Only a few lived and stained old election records still exist, but the ones that do exist show this consistently voting at the Courthouse. The records end in 1830.

A few years ago when I first learned of the voting records I assumed the Avertill family was living in or near Springfield. Now I'm inclined to think otherwise, but as by no means positive that they did not live there first and move to Sugar Creek later. So that all bases will be covered, a few words about the status of the town of Springfield at the time of their arrival is in order. We will want to know about that anyway.

AVERILL FAMILY

Even though the family probably farmed they would have gone to Springfield on occasion, perhaps to shop or visit, certainly to vote.

The village of Springfield was established a couple of years after the Sugar Creek settlement, but it could not have been more than that, since Springfield was declared to be county seat in 1821. By the spring of 1826, 500 people were living there. The first newspaper, "The Sangamo Spectator," began publication. Soon there were a saddler, hatmaker, cobbler, several cabinetmakers, carpenters, and also taverns, a distillery, a tannery, and probably horse-driven grain mills. All of these were strung out on one main street, called Jefferson Street, with the houses extending out along the edges.* By the following year there were several millers because farmers and town dwellers alike needed corn and wheat ground for bread. Later mills used water power, but there was no market as yet for any of their products outside the settlement. Transportation was way too expensive even if there had been a demand. Farmers fed the surplus to their hogs or other animals.

On 7 August 1826 Philo was up bright and early, and if he lived 15 miles away that would have been early, indeed, unless he was staying overnight in town. He was the 5th person to vote at the Courthouse in Springfield.

According to the Sangamon County History, "The grandest in the year to both men and boys was election day. State and county elections of that day were held in August. Nearly every boy in the precinct old enough to ride a horse, accompanied father or brother, all spent the day. Liquor was usually available, and drunken men and fights often witnessed. Horse racing was a common pastime at elections.

Voting was a slow and tedious process. The clerk recorded the name of the voter, and after it the name of each candidate voted for, which were called out by the voter in rotation." (This was before the days of secret balloting. People were usually pretty proud of their political affiliation. Free drinks bought many votes.)

Voting records also show him running for Coroner 2 August 1830, when he was 62 years old. He lost the election, coming in third. The number of votes he received was not impressive, but at least respectable. The people he ran against were not from the Sugar Creek settlement--I did not investigate their residences otherwise. Maybe they came from some place nearer the courthouse, for that would certainly have facilitated their work. Philo must have been a well respected, stable citizen or he would not have been a candidate for a post like that. The election clerks spelled his name "Avrill," "Averill," and "Averille."

*"Prairie of Promise - Springfield and Sangamon County, IL" -
Edward J. Russo (1963)

Ever though the family probably turned they would have been in Springfield on occasion, perhaps to show or visit, certainly to vote.

The village of Springfield was established a couple of years after the Sugar Creek settlement, but it could not have been more than that, since Springfield was declared to be county seat in 1831. By the spring of 1835, 500 people were living there. The first newspaper, "The Hampshire Spectator," began publication. Soon there were a saddler, harnesser, cooper, several cabinetmakers, carpenters, and also a tanner, a distillery, a tannery, and probably horse-drawn grain mills. All of these were along on one main street, called Bellows Falls Street. With the houses extending out along the edges. By the following year there were several mills because farmers and town dwellers alike needed corn and wheat ground for bread. Later still, as water power, but there was no canal as yet for any of their products outside the settlement. Transportation was a way and expensive even if there had been a demand. Farmers fed the surplus to their hogs or other animals.

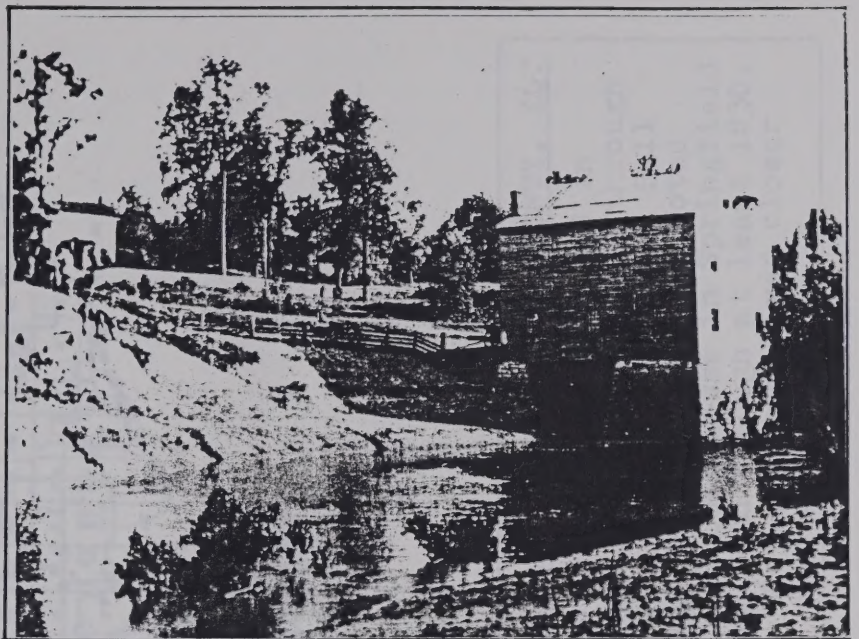
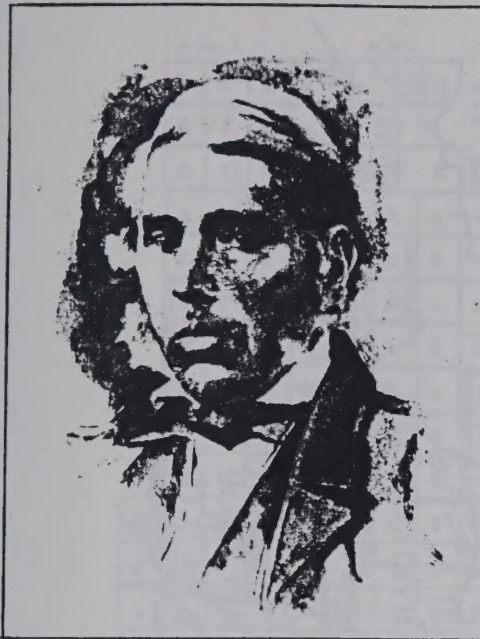
In 3 August 1835 this was up right and early, and it he lived it was very early, indeed, unless he was staying overnight in town. He was the 2nd person to vote at the Court house in Springfield.

According to the Hampshire County History, "The grandest in the year to both men and boys was election day. State and county elections of that day were held in August. Nearly every boy in the precinct old enough to ride a horse accompanied father or brother, all spent the day. Light was usually available, and drunken men and fights often witnessed. Horse racing was a common pastime at elections."

Voting was a slow and tedious process. The clerk recorded the name of the voter, and after it the name of each candidate voted for, which were called out by the voter in rotation. "This was tedious and days of weary waiting. People were usually pretty proud of their political affiliation. Free drinks bought many votes."

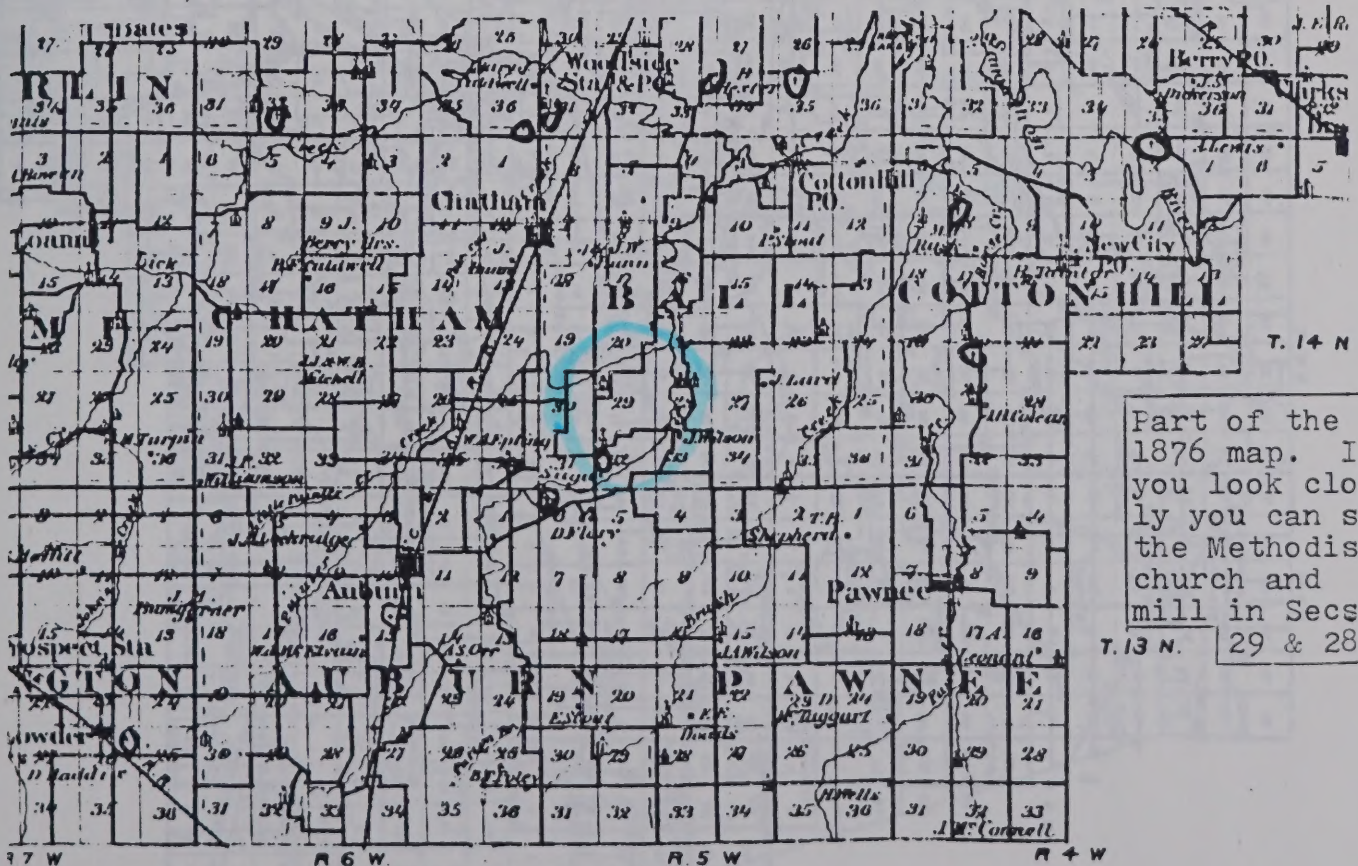
Voting records also show his running for Governor 3 August 1830, when he was 32 years old. He lost the election, coming in third. The number of votes he received was not reported, but at least respectable. The people he ran against were not from the Sugar Creek settlement--I do not investigate their residences elsewhere. Maybe they came from some place nearer the countryside, for that would certainly have facilitated their work. This must have been a well respected, stable citizen or he would not have been a candidate for a post like that. The election clerk spelled his name "Averill," "Averill," and "Averill."

AVERILL FAMILY



Left-Job Fletcher (1793-1872) portrait in 1836, the year he was re-elected as a Whig to the IL State Senate. His first winter at Sugar Creek was spent with wife and 3-month old daughter in a 3-face open shelter. In 1830 they lived 11 doors from the Averill Family.

Right-Men and boys swam in the nude in Robert Crow's millpond, sometimes riding their horses in the nude. Probably Norman Chancellor, Allen and Henry Averill swam there. Boys also caught panfish to eat for supper.



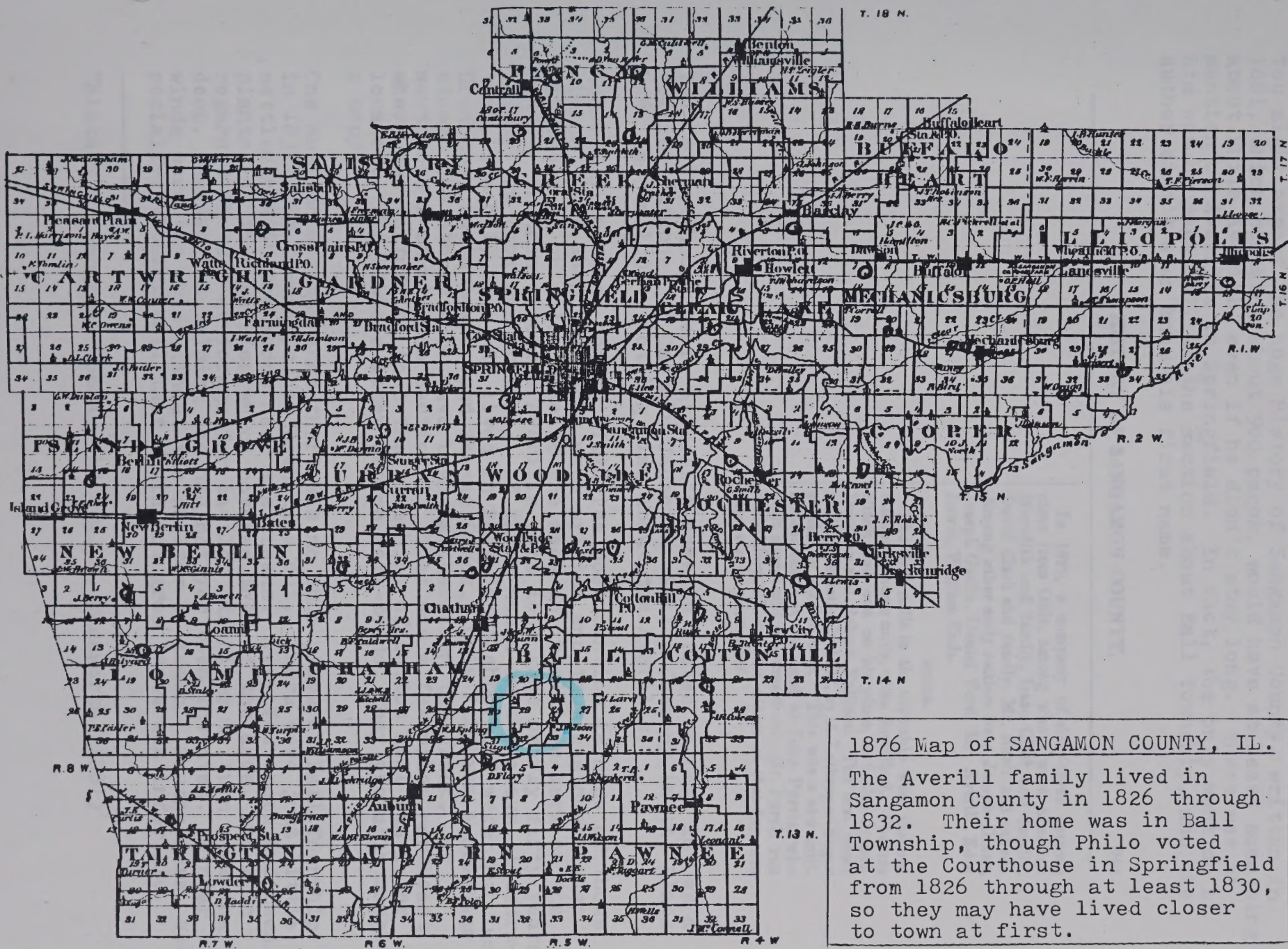
Part of the 1876 map. If you look closely you can see the Methodist church and mill in Secs. 29 & 28.



Left-Joe Fletcher (1893-1978) portrait in 1935. The year he was re-
 elected as a Whig to the 11th State Senate. His first winter as Mayor
 Creek was spent with wife and 3-month old daughter in a 3-face open
 shelter. In 1890 they lived in doors from the Averilly family.
 Fletcher and boys were in the home in Robert Crow's millpond. Some-
 times riding their horses in the woods. Probably known Chancellor,
 Allen and Henry Averilly were there. Boys also caught parties to eat
 for supper.



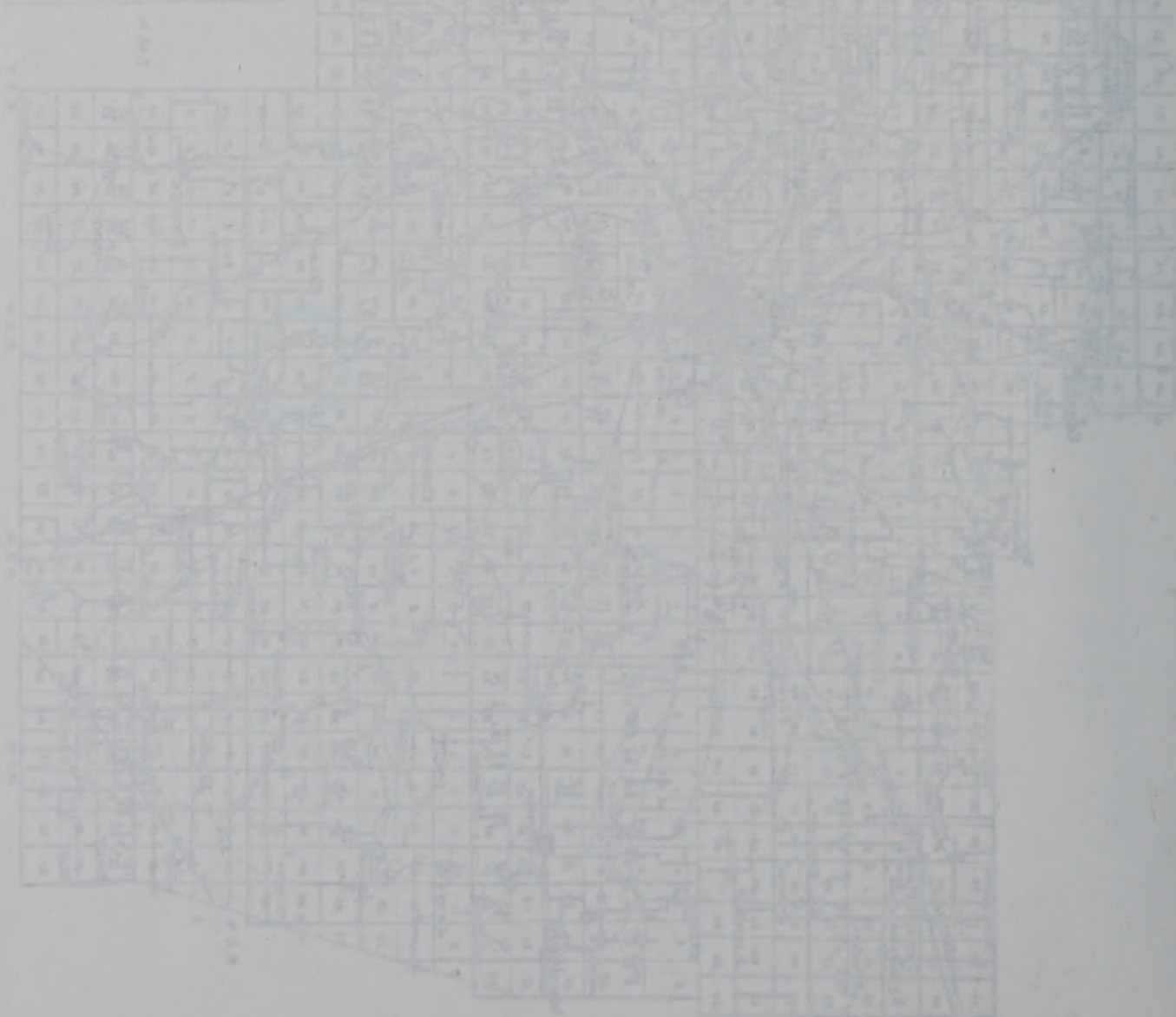
Part of the
 1870 map. If
 you look close
 in you can see
 the watercolor
 church and
 mill in 1870.
 1870 1870 1870



1876 Map of SANGAMON COUNTY, IL.

The Averill family lived in Sangamon County in 1826 through 1832. Their home was in Ball Township, though Philo voted at the Courthouse in Springfield from 1826 through at least 1830, so they may have lived closer to town at first.

NO. 1000 OF LITERS
 IN EACH OF THE FIVE COLUMNS
 THE 1000 LITERS ARE 1000
 OF THE COLUMNS OF LITERS
 COLUMNS. SPREAD BY THE
 1000. THESE ARE IN THE
 1000. THESE ARE IN THE
 1000. THESE ARE IN THE
 1000. THESE ARE IN THE
 1000. THESE ARE IN THE



You might expect the huge History of Sangamon County, written in 1881, which contains about 900 pages, would have at least something about Philo Averill, even if he didn't stay long. There was no mention of Averills in Springfield. In fact, the only mention of him was on page 791, in the section about Ball Township, and the author didn't even know his first name.

HISTORY OF SANGAMON COUNTY.

791

In 1829, a company of sixty-three persons came from Ohio, among whom were Absolom Meredith and family, Isaac Clark and family, David Clark and family, Mr. Snell and others. Among other early settlers were Joseph Dixon, Joseph Gatlin, Daniel Ford, Mr. Averill, Edin Lewis, William Eads. ✓

MILLS.

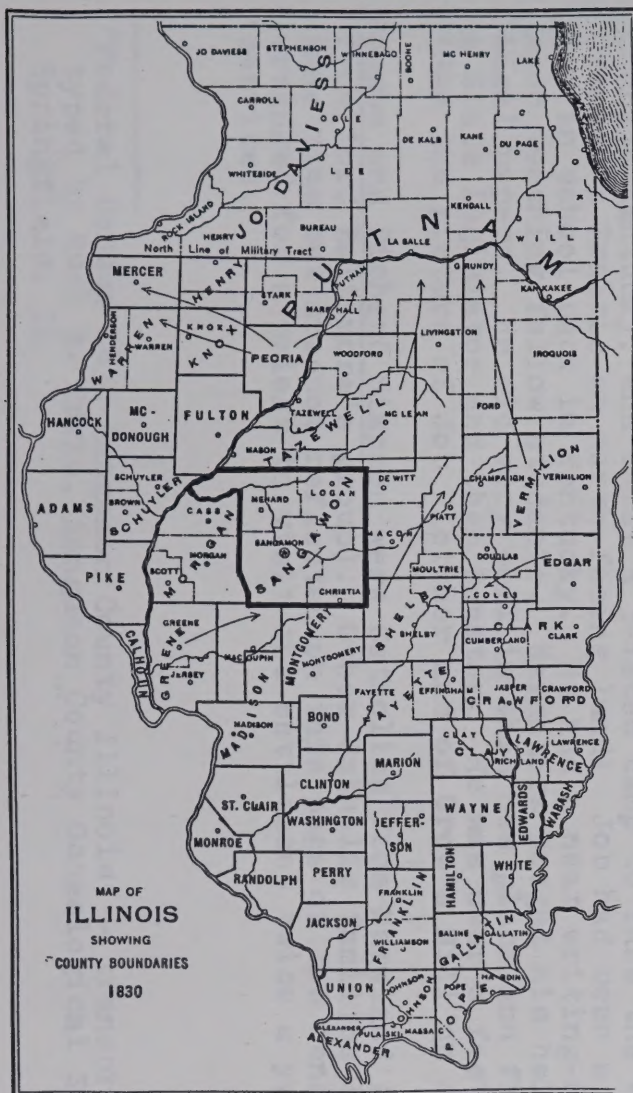
The first mills in the township were the old fashioned horse mills, often described. Thomas Black had one on his place, and also Joseph Drennan and Robert Pulliam. The first water mill was erected in 1827, by A. Lathrop on Sugar creek, on section two. This was a saw mill. Subsequently it was sold to John Purvis, who built a grist mill in connection. Mr. Purvis run a distillery, which, like others at that day, was extensively patronized

That's it, though Henry Averill's name is listed on page 163 as a soldier attached to Captain Japhet A. Ball's Company in the Black Hawk War in 1832. Nothing else about the Averills.

Generally in those county histories most mention is made of those living there when the books were written and thus customers when the books go on sale, or else who made an indellible mark on the place. In this case the Averills were long gone nearly fifty years before the book was written. Of those named in the above illustration, the only ones who lived in Philo's neighborhood were Pulliams, Drennans, Eddin Lewis, and Thomas Black. Only Pulliams & Drennans were close. The others must have been farther down the creek. He mentioned a sawmill on Section 2. That was a few miles northeast where the postoffice (not the township) of Cotton Hill was later located. The Lewises later became well-to-do. They probably bought a copy.

One must understand that there was no such place as Ball Township in 1832. No townships had been laid out. There were just little settlements in the woods near the creeks. Very few crops had been planted on the prairies which covered most of the area, and were regarded at best as forage for cattle. Machines to turn over the deep, tangled, unyielding sod had not yet been invented. Winter winds were too cold without the shelter of trees. Southerners, especially, thought soil that would not grow trees was infertile.

(Compare these names to those on the next 2 pages.)



Pages copied from 1830
Federal census, Sangamon
County IL - transcribed by
Ruth Z. Marko, Sangamon
County Genealogical Society

PAGE 7/140

Samuel Hutton
Silas Harlin
Mathew Harlin
John French
James Harris
Elizabeth Harris
Noah Mason
(Masson)
James Wood
Robert Crow
Elizabeth Fletcher
Job Fletcher, Jr.
Job Fletcher
Anderson Tibbs
Sugar King
James Simpson
Richard Simpson
William Drennan
Joseph Dodds
William Hatchet
Gilbert Dodds
William Drenan
John L. Laughlin
Philo Averil
John Nuckols
Daniel Esly
Martin Pulliam
John L. Drenan

0-2-3-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-2-2-0-1
0-1-0-1-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-1-0-0-1
0-1-1-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-2-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
2-2-0-0-0-1-1
0-1-2-1-0-0-1
0-0-2-1-0-0-0-0-0-1
2-2-1-0-1-0-1
3-1-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-2-1-2-0-0-1
0-1-1-0-0-0-1
2-1-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-2-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-1

2-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
0-1-0-1-1-0-0-1
0-1-2-1-0-1
0-0-2-1-0-0-0-1
2-1-0-3-1-0-1
0-1-2-2-0-1
0-0-1-1-0-0-1
1-0-1-1-0-1
2-1-0-0-0-1
1-0-2-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-2-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-1

PAGE 8/141

John Brownell
Headley Smith
William Baldwin
Elly Noll
William Enix
James Enix
Evans Poor
Leven Hurley
Andrew Drenan
Elizabeth Laughlin
William Laughlin
William A. Clarke
Zachariah Peter
William Richardson
Jacob Metz
David Harmon
Joseph Limon
Japhet A. Ball
John Barns
Smith Ball
John L. Ball
Thomas Long
Lewis Richardson

2-1-0-0-0-1
3-3-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-2-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-1-0-1-2
0-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-3-1-0-1
1-1-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1-0-1
2-1-1-1-2-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-2-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1

1-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-1-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1
1-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-2-0-1
3-1-1
0-2-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-1
1-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
2-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-2
1-0-0-0-1

AVERILL FAMILY

Though we are not positive where the family was when they first came to Sangamon County, we do know that by the time the census was taken in 1830 they were living in the Sugar Creek settlement. (See illustrated census page, typed.) The census does not list any townships--there were none in 1830. The task, then, was to find out more about the neighbors. Finding Faragher's book was a stroke of luck. If anyone wants to buy a book, this is the one I recommend. It provides a wealth of information in a scholarly, well documented but entertaining way there is only room to touch on here. This only glosses over it, but here are a few notes about the family's immediate neighborhood in 1830.

In October 1819, when the settlement was just beginning, Methodist organizers managed to pull together over 100 settlers for a revival in the timber on the east side of Sugar Camp prairie. Several Methodist classes emerged from this. One of the classes was led by James Sims. Four or five years later this class moved to the class of John French, a tenant farmer located in "Cherry Grove," a prominent stand of timber on Panther Creek. START LOOKING AT THE CENSUS.

Methodist farmer Silas Harlan filed a claim there in 1827. The area was later renamed Harlan's Grove. A 40-acre section of magnificent timber was cleared of undergrowth and brush, and became the beautiful "Sugar Creek Camp Ground," the site of numerous religious and social gatherings.

Noah Mason, a New Englander, filed a claim in 1827 and brought his family there. Robert Crow purchased "congress land" in 1824 near his brother-in-law, Squire Job Fletcher, and built a dam and lumber mill there. Boys fished there in the summer and nude men and boys swam there in the summer, some of them riding their horses into the pool, cheered on by spectators. Thomas Black built a bridge over the creek there in 1827, linking Drennan's Prairie with Patton's Settlement. In November 1819, this Job and Mary Fletcher, a young couple with a 3-month old daughter Permelia, came from Christian County, Kentucky, and built a 3-faced camp to face the winter on Drennan's Prairie on north-facing land! Job had been a very bright boy in school back in Kentucky. He had a neat writing-hand and was soon teaching fellow students. Neighbors sought his help with legal papers. He did very well in this new place and finally became a State Legislator and then Senator. He was over 6 feet tall. (See the picture of Job Fletcher and of Crow's Mill on another page.)

James and Richard Simpson were Catholics from Maryland (descended from Lord Baltimore's group). Other Catholic families came at the same time but are not reflected on this page of the census. They arranged for a priest to visit the settlement twice a year for services.

AVERILL FAMILY

In the fall of 1817 the families of William Drennan, his brother Joseph Drennan, son-in-law Joseph Dodds, and neighbor George Cox loaded up their wagons in Greene County Kentucky, came across on a ferry at Shawneetown, and traveled to Woods River where they set up a winter camp. In the spring of 1818 they left the women behind tending 16 children. The four men hired a ranger to guide them up the trace to the San-gam-ma, spent a few days scouting the site, and chose a location for their homes with a clear spring on the west side of the creek. They formed a square-mile enclosure with three sides around a section of high grass that became known as "Drennan's Prairie."

The four men agreed to share work in common for the next two years, at the end of which time all four families were to have homes and farms of equal value, and good size. They cleared timber, built cabins and fences, and raised summer crops of corn and pumpkins that first summer. In the fall they returned to get their wives and children, plus others who desired to come along to settle.

Joseph Dodd's brother, Gilbert Dodds, was a lay Cumberland Presbyterian minister. He organized a congregation which he later moved to the Lick Creek settlement.

Martin Pulliam's picture and part of his family tree was told on a previous page. It may be added that his father, Robert, set up a horse mill in 1820 which was much needed but not too efficient, to grind corn for the settlers.

Daniel Easley was a Kentuckian and related to other settlers. The Easley, Nuckols, and Hutton families remained in the area and their descendants became prosperous in a later time when the prairie could be farmed and the markets in St. Louis, etc., demanded their produce. They even had tenant farmers and hired hands working for them.

Little or nothing was said about the Harris, Tibbs, King, Hatchett, Laughlin or Averill families. As for the bottom half of the page, those were people who lived in a slightly different neighborhood not far away. Judge Zachariah Peter has been told about already. He settled three miles away from the Pulliams. The only other ones who will be mentioned here are the Ball family, for whom the township was eventually named. Japhet A. Ball was involved in several endeavors. During the Black Hawk he was captain of the military unit to which Henry James Cropsey Averill was attached. Mr. Ball also had a mill in later years which he reported was mostly for the good of the community, as it brought very little profit. However, the year he said that was 1837, and that was the beginning of a severe depression.

It would be frosting on the cake if the book had told about Philo, but it did not. Besides county records, the author got some of his information from the descendants in the Sangamon County Genealogical Society, which is very nice, but no Averill stayed around to join.

In the fall of 1817 the families of William Freeman, his brother Joseph Freeman, son-in-law Joseph Hadden, and neighbor George Lee located up their way on Green County Kentucky, came across on a ferry at Shaversfork, and traveled to North River where they set up a winter camp. In the spring of 1818 they left the winter camp and traveled to Clinton. The town was then a range to guide them up the river to the Kan-gan, spent a few days securing the site and chose a location for their home with a clear spring on the west side of the creek. They found a good site and located with their sides around a section of high grass that became known as "Freeman's Prairie."

The four men agreed to share work in common for the next two years at the end of which time all four families were to have houses and farms of equal value, and good else. They cleared about 1000 acres and fenced, and raised summer crops of corn and pumpkins that first summer. In the fall they returned to get their wives and children, plus others who desired to come along to settle.

Joseph Hadden's brother, Clifford Hadden, was a lay Methodist preacher and minister. He organized a congregation which he later moved to the Black Creek settlement.

Marion Pulliam's picture and part of his family tree was found on a previous page. It may be added that his father, Robert, set up a house in 1820 which was much needed but not the efficient to find corn for the settlers.

Charles Kelley was a Kentuckian and related to other settlers. The Kelley, Beckels, and Hadden families remained in the area and their descendants became prominent in a later time when the Kelley could be traced and the Beckels in St. Louis, etc. Hadden's family grew. They even had several farmers and hired hands working for them.

Little or nothing was said about the Hadden, Elmer, Hadden, Beckels, Laughlin or Averill families. As for the latter half of the page, these were people who lived in a slightly different neighborhood not far away. Judge Jacobson Hadden has been told about it. He settled there many years from the Pulliams. The only other name who will be mentioned here are the Hall family, for upon the township was eventually named. James A. Hall was involved in several endeavors. Before the Black Hawk he was captain of the military unit to which Henry James Gibson Averill was attached. Mr. Hall also had a mill in later years which he reported was mostly for the good of the community. As it brought very little profit. However, the year he said that was 1837, and that was the beginning of a severe depression.

It would be interesting on the case if the book had said about this, but it did not. Besides county records, the author got some of the information from the descendants in the Green County Genealogical Society, which is very nice, but no Averill stayed around to join.

AVERILL FAMILY

Perhaps someone reading all this about early Illinois history and Sangamon County settlers will say, "She has told about everyone but the Averills." But think--how could a family living 7 or 8 years in a place like that with neighbors like those not have been affected? Norman Chancellor Averill was ten years old when they settled there and 17 or 18 when they left--those may have been the most formative years of his life.

People there had to make great use of their muscles just to subsist, and the women had it very hard. Rebecah and the girls had to work dawn to dusk. Women not only had to make all the clothes--they had to grow flax, or even gather and harvest nettles for cloth, card and spin the wool, grow vegetables, milk cows and on and on. But the boys would have gone fishing and swimming at the mill pond near their home, and joined Philo when he went to Springfield to vote. Henry would have been one of the youths receiving military training at Mr. Drennan's.

All of the children heard Mr. Pulliam tell about the Indians throwing his little neighbor babies into the boiling kettles. Even as a man Martin Pulliam had nightmares about that. No wonder Henry was anxious to fight in the Black Hawk War. Pretty fair schooling was available to the Averill children but their parents had to pay for it. Many of the early settlers were uncultured, sometimes rough, and everyone drank too much in 1830--it was a sign of the times. The Methodists had not yet started their Temperance Society meetings, but in spite of their rough edges most of those people were religious. The Averills lived within easy walking distance of the active Methodist congregation at Harlan's Grove.

The fact that Philo ran for public office proves he was considered an asset to the community. Being a Yankee probably did not help him, but it does not seem that Philo was a typical Yankee--from the time they got to Ohio the family chose to live with Southerners when they could just as easily lived in Yankee settlements instead. You can think of other examples, but don't you agree we learn a lot about people by the company they keep?

I forgot to mention something all the local histories tell about--the mosquitoes were less troublesome than in Indiana or Pope County, except in wet grass, but the horseflies on the prairie were horrible in the daytime. White horses would become pink with blood in only a few minutes, especially on their backs, forelegs and face, while traveling in the open. Riders usually traveled after sundown or very early morning, and kept their horses covered with blankets. The flies were not as bad in cleared land or in the woods but they were much larger than those nowadays. The bites were painful to man or beast and often became infected. Prairie grasses in places were as high as a man on horseback. Once they were gone in later years most of the flies went, too.

Malaria was not the problem it had been in their previous homes but there were enough mosquitoes that it did exist there. They flew unobstructed into the dark, often humid cabins.

perhaps someone trading all this about early Lincoln history and
Lincoln County residents will say, "She has told about everyone
but the Averills." But think--how could a family living 7 or 8
years in a place like that with neighbors like those not have been
mentioned? Herman Connelley Averill and ten years or so when they
settled there and 17 or 18 when they left--there may have been the
most formative years of his life.

People there had to make great use of their woods--just to supply
and the women had to very hard. Rebecca and the girls had to work
down to dust. Women not only had to make all the dishes--they had
to grow them, or even gather and preserve berries for food, and
and spin the wool, grow vegetables, milk cows and so on.
But the boys would have some thinking and reasoning as the mill pond
near their home, and indeed this when he went to Springfield to
vote. Henry would have been one of the young receiving military
training at Mr. Brennan's.

All of the children heard Mr. Phillips' talk about the Indians knowing
his little neighbor had been into the Indian nation. Even as a man
Martin Phillips had nightmares about that. He wondered Henry was
anxious to fight in the Black Hawk War. Henry felt schooling was
available to the Averill children but their parents had to pay for
it. Many of the early settlers were uneducated, sometimes tough,
and everyone knew too much in 1830--it was a sign of the times.
The Methodists had not yet started their temperance society meetings,
but in spite of their rough edges most of these people were religious.
The Averills lived within easy walking distance of the active
Methodist congregation at Harkins' Grove.

The fact that Philip ran for public office proves he was considered
an asset to the community. Being a Yankee probably did not help
him, but it does not seem that Philip was a typical Yankee--from the
time they got to this the family chose to live with Southerners when
they could just as easily lived in Yankee settlements instead. You
can think of other examples, but don't you agree we learn a lot
about people by the company they keep?

I forgot to mention something all the local histories tell about--
the mosquitoes were less troublesome than in Indiana or Iowa County,
except in wet areas, but the mosquitoes on the prairie were horrible
in the daytime. White horses would become pink with blood in only
a few minutes, especially on their backs, forelegs and face, while
traveling in the open. Riders usually traveled after sundown or very
early morning, and kept their horses covered with blankets. The
flies were not so bad in cleared land as in the woods but they were
much larger than those nowadays. The flies were painful to men as
bees and often became infected. Prairie grasses in places were so
high as a man on horseback. Once they were gone in later years most
of the flies went, too.

Indiana was not the problem it had been in their previous homes
but there were enough mosquitoes that it did irritate them. They
then constructed into the dark, often humid cabins.

AVERILL FAMILY

The following winter of 1830-31 is known in Illinois history as "The winter of the Big Snow" - the snowiest winter in history of the state. Some settlers gave up in disgust and went back where they came from the next spring. This is related in various county histories. That for Menard County (then part of Sangamon) relates, "One of the most conspicuous chronological landmarks in the history of Menard County, and all of central Illinois, for that matter, is the "winter of the deep snow." Old settlers, in fixing remote dates, use this as the average mother uses the birth of her children; she says, 'It was the winter after John was born.' The old settler says, 'It was just after the deep snow.' At the old settlers' annual meetings they have badges that are worn by all who were here before 1830, which are inscribed, 'Snow Bird.'"

The book about Springfield says, "A great natural disaster occurred that would divert Springfield's attention from problems for a time. The autumn of 1830 was wet and mild until Christmas Eve. Then a foot of snow fell. It continued steadily for nine weeks, and piled up to four or five feet everywhere. The temperature ranged from freezing to 20° below zero. Most of the corn had not yet been harvested and food was scarce. Mr. Enos saved many lives by delivering wood with oxen and a sled. Horses weren't able to get through. Hogs and fowl died by the hundreds, prairie chickens and deer became almost extinct; and several men lost their way and died pathetically close to settlements. Those who arrived in time to witness the "Great Snow" as it came to be called, were ever after known as Snow Birds. The frightening isolation during the snowstorm made settlers acutely aware of their poor transportation facilities.

A year after that, in the Spring of 1832, the settlers there and in all the surrounding counties became very apprehensive about what they regarded as aggression on the part of the Indians. Keokuk, chief of the Sauk and Fox Indians, had moved his people across the Mississippi in accordance with a treaty about 1830. A splinter group under Black Hawk decided not to honor it and led his supporters back to their planting grounds in a defiant, belligerent fashion. Many of the settlers had a vivid memory of the atrocities during the War of 1812 and even suspected the British were stirring the Indians to war again. Even some Indians hoped help would come from Canada but they were mistaken.

Many books have been written about the Black Hawk War. Some of them represent that desperate, starving, practically defenseless followers of Black Hawk, including squaws and children, were hunted to extinction by ruthless, aggressive armed soldiers. Whatever the truth may be, the settlers around Sugar Creek saw it as protecting their homes and families from massacre.

Private Henry James Cropsey, 22½ years old, who had participated in the military drills at Drennan's, started out with a horse, but

"The Black Hawk War 1831-2" Vol I, Illinois Volunteers -
Illinois State Historical Society

"Index to Indian Wars Pensions 1892-1926" Vol 1, page 57 -
Virgil D. White

The following chapter of 1830-31 is known in Illinois history as "the winter of the big snow" - the snowiest winter in history of the state. Some settlers gave up in disgust and went back where they came from the next spring. This is related in various ways. One of the most conspicuous chronological landmarks in the history of Menard County, and all of central Illinois, for that matter, is the "winter of the deep snow." Old settlers, in living memory, date, one this as the average mother uses the birth of her children, the other, "it was the winter after John was born." The old settlers say, "it was just after the deep snow." At the old settlers' annual meetings they have badges that are worn by all who were here before 1830, which are inscribed, "Snow Bird."

The book about Springfield says, "A great natural disaster occurred that would divert Springfield's attention from problems for a time. The autumn of 1830 was wet and mild until Christmas Eve. Then a foot of snow fell. It continued steadily for nine weeks, and piled up to four or five feet everywhere. The temperature ranged from freezing to 20° below zero. Most of the crops had not yet been harvested and food was scarce. Mr. Enos never saw any liver by delivery and wood with oxen and a sled. Horses weren't able to get through. Hogs and fowl died by the hundreds, primitive chickens and deer became almost extinct, and several men lost their way and died partially close to settlements. Those who arrived in time to witness the "Great Snow" as it came to be called, were ever after known as Snow Birds. The frightening isolation during the snowstorm made settlers acutely aware of their poor transportation facilities."

A year after that, in the Spring of 1832, the settlers there and in all the surrounding country became very apprehensive about what they regarded as aggression on the part of the Indians. A chief of the Sauk and Fox Indians, had moved his people across the Mississippi in accordance with a treaty about 1830. A winter group under Black Hawk decided not to honor it and led his supporters back to their planting grounds in a defiant, belligerent fashion. Many of the settlers had a vivid memory of the atrocities during the War of 1812 and even suspected the British were stirring the Indians to war again. Even some Indians hoped help would come from Canada but they were mistaken.

Many books have been written about the Black Hawk war. Some of them represent that desperate, starving, practically defenseless followers of Black Hawk, including women and children, were hunted to extinction by ruthless, aggressive armed soldiers. Whatever the truth may be, the settlers around Bear Creek saw it as protecting their homes and families from massacre.

Private Henry James Grosby, 22½ years old, who had participated in the military drills at German's, started out with a horse, but

column states also that Matthew Duncan was a "priv. from 20 Ap to 25 Ap. inc."

¹ Summers was originally captain of a company, later commanded by Seth Pratt, in which Leighton and Burton were also first enrolled. The company was formed in Morgan County—at Beardstown, according to the April 28 roll, although the mustering-out roll states that company members were entitled to transportation back to Jacksonville. Duncan was enrolled in Fayette County. The other staff members were enrolled in Sangamon County, with the possible exception of John L. Thompson, about whose war service and enrollment nothing else is known.

² Thomas Long arrived at Beardstown as captain of a company, according to John Carroll Power's *Sangamon County* (1876), 465. The only two pieces of evidence corroborating this statement are confusing, inasmuch as each points to Long's having been captain of a different company.

COMPANY OF CAPTAIN JAPHET A. BALL

Muster roll of Capt Japhet A. Ball's company of mounted men (detached for foot purposes) one of the companies of the odd Battalion commanded by Major Thomas Long now in the service of the United States commanded by Brigadier Genl Whiteside and mustered out of service on the 28th. day of May 1832

No	Names	Rank	When,	Enroled Where	By Whom
			1832	Sangamon	
			April 21	County	Japhet A. Ball
1	Japhet A. Ball	Capt			
2	Alexander D. Cox	1st Lieut			
3	John McCormack	2d do			
4	Joseph W. Duncan	1st Sergt			
5	James McCormack	2d do			
6	William F. Cox	3d do			
7	Charles Day	4th do			
8	Harvey Graham	1st Corporal			
9	John M Barnes	2d do			
10	Thos J. Clark	3d do			
11	Richd Cox	4d do			
12	Thos L. McKinney	Private			
13	Thomas Gattin	do			
14	Elder Massie	do			
15	Abram Lanterman	do			
16	Jonathan Coleman	do			
17	Lewis C. Jones	do			
18	Henry Averil	do			
19	Daniel Kitchum	do			
20	William Mitts	do			
21	John Brumfield	do			In hospital
22	Joseph Hazlet	do			

Jacob Ebey's company was enrolled, the muster roll states, "by Major Long." Customarily, companies were enrolled by their original commanders—thus it would seem that Long was the first captain of Ebey's company.

More direct evidence, however, points to his having commanded the company known as Japhet A. Ball's. The record book of William Thomas, brigade quartermaster (in IHI: BHW Coll.), shows that provisions were issued to Captain Ebey's company on April 28 and 29 and to Captain Long's company on April 27 and 29. All of the men under Captain Long to whom supplies were issued were members of the company later commanded by Ball.

It is possible, of course, that both companies were united under Long's command until the battalion was organized at Beardstown.

No	Names	Rank	When,	Enroled Where	By Whom	Remarks
23	William Donner	do	"	"		
24	William Gattin	do	"	"		
25	Barnabas M. Blue	do	"	"		
26	John Hutton	do	"	"		
27	Nathan H. Spears	do	"	"		
28	Salmon W. Hawse	do	"	"		
29	Morris R. Menicks	do	"	"		
30	William McCormack	do	"	"		
31	Jesse Mitts	do	"	"		
32	Charles Smith	do	"	"		
33	John Ball	do	"	"		
34	Garret Tempe	do	"	"		
35	James Ward	do	"	"		
36	Robert B. Sexton	do	"	"		
37	John Porry	do	"	"		in hospital
38	Saml C. Hampton	do	"	"		on extra duty
39	Moses Wright	do	"	"		
40	John Kendall	do	"	"		
41	John D. Bagby	do	"	"		
42	John Gately	do	"	"		
43	Abram Howard	do	"	"		
44	Thomas Cook	do	"	"		
45	Daniel Waters	do	"	"		
46	Robert Patton	do	"	"		
47	Thomas Swearengen	do	"	"		in hospital
48	John Vincent	do	"	"		

I certify on honor that this muster roll exhibits a true statement of Capt Japhet A. Ball's Company of mounted volunteers of Illinois Militia detached for foot purposes. and that the remarks set opposite their names of the respective men are accurate & just

Signed at the mouth of Fox river in the State of Illinois. Lasalle County this 28th of May 1832

Japhet A. Ball Capt

CC, IHI: Stevens Coll. IHI also has a photograph of the mustering-out roll in DNA, which was signed by Ball and has the Nathaniel Buckmaster certificate of service in the handwriting of David Prickett. Only two names are spelled differently on the DNA roll: Nos. 31, Jesse Mitts, and 47, Thomas Swearengen.

The Stevens Coll. also contains a mustering-in roll made out and signed by John J. Hardin at Beardstown, 50 miles from the place of enrollment, April 29, 1832. The Hardin roll lists only forty-three men, omitting these eight on the roll above: 5, James McCormack; 6, William F. Cox; 9, John M. Barnes; 11, Richard Cox; 45,

Daniel Waters; 46, Robert Patton; 47, Thomas Swearengen; and 48, John Vincent. Three men on the Hardin roll are not given in the mustering-out roll. They are Sion R. Green and Benjamin Howard, both of whom joined the battalion staff, and William Sollars, who apparently transferred to the company of William Glvens in the 3d Regiment.

No corporals are designated on the Hardin roll, and the sergeants are given as follows: 1st, Harvey Graham; 2d, Ben. Howard; 3d, Joseph M. ("W." above) Duncan; and 4th, Charles Day.

Variations in spelling as given on Hardin's

AVERILL FAMILY

his company was dismounted for tactical purposes. He spent the spring tramping through woods and mosquitoey swamps trying to find Indians. One result of his efforts in the military, and those of his companions, is that after that it was safe for the Bounty Lands to be settled.

The Averill Family must have moved there right away, for on 7 March 1833 his sister Charlotte Baker Averill married Nicholas Royal Teas in McDonough County, hitherto part of the Bounty Lands.

By then Philo was 65 years old and Rebecah 58. Most of the children were grown, though Norman and Allen were still in their teens. Details of the family's experiences in this new home will be told in the next chapter, about Great-great Grandfather Norman Chancellor Averill, though Philo and Rebecah lived there another eleven years. McDonough County was a primitive place when they arrived there but very pleasant, with nice Methodist neighbors and good friends to talk to.

The mother, Rebecah (Rice) Averill, died 9 September 1844, age 69. Philo died a month later on 22 October 1844, age 76. They did get to enjoy some of their grandchildren, including the baby born in 1843 whom Philo named for his hero, William Henry Harrison Averill. Many more grandchildren were born after they died.

Children of Philo and first wife, Betsy (Boardman) Averill:

Malissa	?1789	ca. 1809	Timothy Haskell
Orilla	?1790	-	Became a Shaker

Children of Philo and second wife, Charlotte (Baker) Averill:

Rowlen Green	?1792	ca. 1812	Name unknown
Betsy	?1794	-	Became a Shaker
Electa	?1796	ca 1813	Nehemiah Hurd

Children of Philo and third wife, Rebecah (Rice) Averill:

Henry James Cropsey	20 Jul 1809	10 Sep 1840	Huldah Ann Warren
		1 Jan 1861	Sarah Liggett
Charlotte Baker	Feb 1811	7 Mar 1833	Nicholas Royal Teas
Eliza D.	1813	10 Mar 1839	Levi Warren
+Norman Chancellor	11 Jan 1815	1 Aug 1844	Martha E. Clayton
Allen Wiley	4 Feb 1817	7 Dec 1847	Sarah Clayton
		20 Apr 1853	Mary Ann Delbridge

The company was dismantled for tactical purposes. He spent the spring training through woods and mountains, always trying to find lodgings. One result of his efforts in the military, and those of his companions, is that after that it was safe for the country lands to be settled.

The Averill family never have been there right away, but on 7 March 1833 his sister Charlotte Baker Averill married Nicholas Royal in Wadsworth County, North Carolina part of the country.

By then Philis was 65 years old and Rebecca 38. Most of the children were grown. Though Benjamin and Allen were still in their teens. Details of the family's experiences in this new home will be told in the next chapter, about Great-grandfather, Benjamin Chancellor Averill, though Philis and Rebecca lived there another eleven years. Wadsworth County was a fertile place and they arrived there in very pleasant, with nice neighbors and good friends to talk to.

The mother, Rebecca (Hick) Averill, died 2 September 1844, age 65. Philis died a month later on 12 October 1844, age 70. They are buried to enjoy some of their grandchildren, including the baby born in 1844 when Philis named for his wife, William Henry Harrison Averill. Two more grandchildren were born after they died.

Children of Philis and first wife, Mary (Baker) Averill

William	1798	ca. 1809	Thomas, Haskell
Philis	1798	-	Became a doctor

Children of Philis and second wife, Charlotte (Baker) Averill

Rowland Green	1798	ca. 1812	Name unknown
Betsy	1798	-	Became a doctor
Elizabeth	1798	ca. 1813	Rebecca's maid

Children of Philis and third wife, Rebecca (Hick) Averill

Henry James Cropper	20 Jul 1803	10 Sep 1840	William Ann Baker
Charles Baker	Feb 1811	1 Jan 1851	Samuel Linger
Elizabeth D.	1813	7 Mar 1833	Rebecca Royal Tarr
Thomas Chancellor	11 Jan 1815	10 Mar 1833	Levi Warner
Allen Wiley	2 Feb 1817	1 Aug 1844	William E. Clayton
		7 Dec 1847	Sarah Clayton
		20 Apr 1853	Mary Ann Lebridge



AVERILL FAMILY

The family's next move was farther north, to the prairie country of Sangamon County, Illinois. They did not remain in the area very long, but we do want to know what their lives were like when they were there. At the time of the move Philo was 58, Rebecah 51, Henry 16½, Charlotte 15, Eliza 13, Norman 10, and Allen 8. No evidence has been found yet that the families of Electa Hurd or Melissa Haskell were with them, or that other Pope County people came with them. By 1825 many people had heard of the rich soil of that yet rather primitive new area, and that the government had not yet sold all of the claims. Being originally from the north, Philo and Rebecca realized the climate there would be healthier. Another small recession occurred about that time, but we don't know if it affected them so much as their pioneer spirit. They did choose a spot with good Methodist neighbors nearby.

When Illinois had become a state in 1818, only the required 40,000 (if it was really that many) people were living there, almost all of them near the rivers in the southern part of the state. A few were along the Wabash, some--like the Averills--near the Ohio, but the bulk of them near the Mississippi. The last set consisted of two groups, the original French with those who joined them on the Kaskaskia and Cahokia rivers, and the mostly Southern squatters who had settled on the rich floodplain called the American Bottom, commencing right after the Revolutionary War.

Perhaps this map of Illinois in 1822 will demonstrate that the Averill Family really did seek the wilderness again. It shows all of the surveyed areas, consisting of those just described and the military Bounty Lands set aside for War of 1812 veterans. Actually the Bounty Lands could not be settled for several more years because the Sauk and Fox Indians there were much too fierce. The Kickapoo occupied most of the unsurveyed land, though under a treaty signed in 1819 they agreed to consider moving to Missouri. Both sets of Indians had supported the British in the War of 1812 and bitterly hated the settlers. A few of the largest Kickapoo villages are shown on the map. Though the capitol had been moved to Vandalia, still on the Kaskaskia River, settlement inland that far north had occurred only sparsely. Nearly everything north of Vandalia was unsettled, even in 1825 when the Averills moved farther north.

This map omits one important element--Sangamon County was surveyed in 1821 and made into a county with its seat at Springfield. Maybe the mapmaker considered it unimportant since only about 500 people lived there. To find the site of Springfield on the map, locate the Sangamon River, easy to spot on the white part of the map. Next locate the Sugar River flowing into it from the south. Springfield was slightly to the lower left of the juncture. Everything to the north was unbroken Indian country, and so was most of everything south nearly to Vandalia. In the spring of 1826, the Averill Family was living in sort of an "island" of 500 or so white settlers surrounded by wilderness.





1875

AVERILL FAMILY

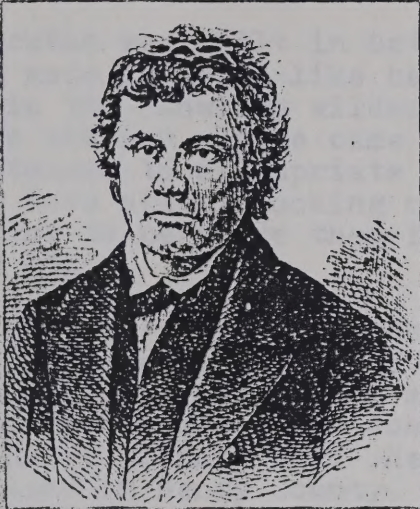
At first, with the low population, Sangamon County covered a very large area. It had about the same southern border as now, but extended farther east. The western and northern boundaries were the Illinois River. Even though in 1821 anything north of the Sangamon was almost total unbroken Indian country, future Justice of the Peace George Power and his family settled that year in what became Cantrall (Fancy Creek TWP). See illustration--featured mostly to show the power a Justice of the Peace could wield, though it is doubtful Philo ever compared to that. The person in the other picture, Rev. Peter Cartwright, settled in 1823 on Richland Creek. The township was later named for him. He probably did have an influence on the Averill Family. Of course, such a large area was designed to allow government to expand, and was later carved up into many counties. Most of the time our family was there the county included what are now Sangamon, Menard, Logan, and parts of Christian and Macon counties.

We can tell from the previously shown Pope County Land Tax List that Philo paid real estate taxes by the fall of 1825, and that is probably when they left. A second alternative is less likely but will be mentioned--a mostly river route in Spring 1826 when the Sangamon River was swollen and thus considered by the early settlers to be navigable though, then as now, it was full of snags and floating debris. By 1826 an occasional steamboat had gone up the Illinois River but not the Sangamon. They could have switched to a team or smaller craft at that point, or even used a flatboat all the way from Pope County. It is more likely they went overland.

Likely they left in the fall of 1825. The map shows three roads they could have chosen from. One left from Ft. Masaac. The two most used by Kentuckians who went where they were going involved crossing the Ohio River by a ferry to Shawneetown and taking one of the two roads going west. The one going to Edwardsville may be the one they used. Since the Averills were not first-comers, let us tell it from the viewpoint of the Kentuckians. Most of them were from the "Barrens" or "Green River Country" who crossed at Shawneetown, took the road towards Edwardsville until they came to the "Old Indian Trail" east of the American Bottom. The trail continued north until they reached the east side of the Sugar River, which was their destination. The trail itself continued north and crossed the Sangamon, and thence went to the Indian Villages at Kickapoo Village and Peoria. Years later the Old Indian Trail became the Edwards Trace which developed into the Postal Route and eventually improved to become the St. Louis Road.

-
- "Sugar Creek - Life on the Illinois Prairie" - John Mack Faragher (1986) Yale University Press (Most of the book applies)
- "The Prairie State, A Documentary History of Illinois - Colonial Years to 1860" - edited by Robert P. Sutton (1976) Eerdmans Publ. See Vol. I, Part II especially a letter by a German national, Ferdinand Ernst in 1819 and later translated. He was seeking land to buy. Page 208-210 tell of his observations at Sugar Creek.

Peter Cartwright



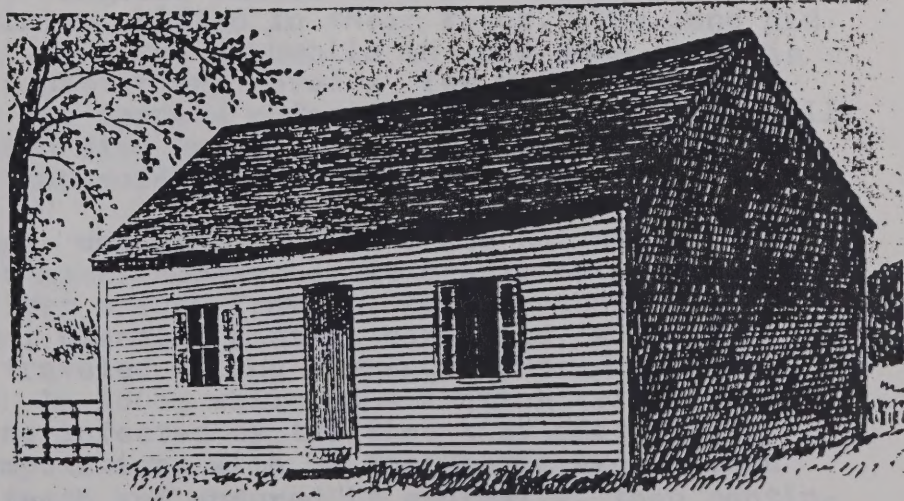
Courtesy, SVC, Lincoln Library

Peter Cartwright (1785-1872) American Methodist clergyman known as the "backwoods preacher," was born in Amherst Co. VA and moved with his parents to Kentucky where he was converted at a camp meeting in 1801 from the "evil" pleasures of card playing, horse racing, and dancing, to God and Methodism. The tall, brawny Cartwright was a natural orator who took on the devil as his personal enemy. At age 18 he was a full fledged circuit riding preacher. He preached as if "the devil had no rights and never apologized for his attacks on Satan's kingdom." At his services they sang songs like,

"A Methodist is my name
And I hope to live and die the same.
Oh, whip the devil around the stump
And hit him a crack at every jump."

He had an unmitigated hatred of slavery which prompted him to settle at Richland Creek, Sangamon County IL, with his wife and family in 1823. Besides preaching he engaged in local politics, even running unsuccessfully against Abraham Lincoln for congress. Philo and Rebecah Averill and the children must have listened to Rev. Cartwright many times, both in Sangamon County and in Hillsgrove in McDonough County, for he preached in both places many times. This man wrote a very interesting autobiography.

This is a picture of the courthouse at Cantrall where Justice of the Peace George Power presided during the first half of the 19th century. Abraham Lincoln presented many cases there in his early career as a lawyer.



Sources used for both sketches--"Prairie of Promise - Springfield & Sangamon County, IL" - Edward J. Russo (1983) and articles in American Peoples Encyclopedia.

Portrait of Peter Carrwright



Peter Carrwright (1785-1875)
 American Methodist minister known
 as the "Devil's preacher," was
 born in 1785 in Kentucky where
 with his parents he lived until
 he was converted at a camp meeting
 in 1801. From the "Devil's preacher"
 of early times, he became known as
 "Apostle of the South" and "Apostle of
 the South." Carrwright was a natural
 orator who took on the devil as his
 personal enemy. He said he was a
 full fledged Christian. He preached
 he preached as if "the devil had no
 rights and never apologized for his
 attacks on human sinners." At his
 services they were some times

"A Methodist is a man
 and a hope to live and die the same."
 Oh, with the devil around the way
 and his stick at every jump.

He had an unimpaired power of always which protected him in
 battle at Richmond, Va. Carrwright, Jr. with his wife and
 family in 1837. Carrwright presented he engaged in local politics.
 even running successfully against Thomas Lincoln for Congress.
 He and Richard Averill and the children must have listened to
 Rev. Carrwright many times, both in Hampshire County and in
 Hampshire in Hampshire County, for he preached in both places
 many times. This man gave a very interesting autobiography.



This is a picture
 of the church
 at Fairview where
 Carrwright of the
 Second Great Awakening
 preached during the
 first half of the
 19th century.
 Carrwright Lincoln
 preached many
 times there in his
 early career as a
 lawyer.

Source: Carrwright and his children--"Fables of Fables"
 Carrwright and his children, Jr. - Carrwright, Jr. (1837) and
 Carrwright in American Political Encyclopedia.

AVERILL FAMILY

Perhaps the easiest way to tell about the settlement of Sangamon County is to give a little narrative about the very first settler. When the locals formed their Old Settlers Club years later, three or four families claimed they were first. Finally a committee was formed to search out the truth. After much deliberation they decided that, though others broke ground first, the first to build a residence was peg-legged Robert Pulliam. Here, then, is his story.

Robert's cabin was built in October, 1817. Some idealistic early writers made it sound like he came, Moses-like, to settle on good ground in the "howling wilderness." The truth is he knew exactly where he was and why he came there. He took advantage of a set of circumstances to expropriate a desirable spot from Kickapoo Indians he knew were absent looking over land in Missouri the government was trying to persuade them to remove to. He wanted to be first to stake a claim.

Robert Pulliam was the grandson of Scotch-Irish immigrants. His father, John, grew up in the Shenandoah Valley. About 1770 he settled in Henry County, VA and got married. Robert was born there in 1776, the oldest son. John fought with the Henry County Militia in the Revolutionary War. He was poor and rich planters owned most of the land in Henry County, so soon after the war he took wife and three little ones to Kentucky where he hoped to buy land. Before they could save enough money history repeated itself, with rich planters driving the price way too high.

In 1796 the Pulliams and several others in the same circumstances crossed the Ohio River and squatted on the American Bottom, a rich floodplain, not far from the French settlements. Robert's mother died, probably of malaria, and the oldest sister took over raising the other children. By then there were six of them. No one could buy land until it was surveyed. The claims of the French-speaking people already living there had to be sorted out first, a very difficult task. At first Congress wanted to evict the squatters but eventually public opinion shifted in their favor. The land did not go on sale until 1815. In the meanwhile in 1808 John sold his improvements to another squatter and moved a few miles up the Kaskaskia River to squat and operate a ferry. His heirs were finally able to secure title. John died in 1812, a poor farmer who craved land all his life and worked hard but never got to own any.

Robert grew up to be tough, uncultured, illiterate but shrewd. (He did learn how to sign his name, however.) At age 26 he married and staked a claim at Wood River across from St. Louis, subsisting by raising hogs in the woods, planting a small cornfield, a garden, and hunting game. He often traveled a long distance hunting and was good at dodging Indians. In 1808, while on a hunting trip his leg was injured. It became so infected by the time they reached help that his only hope was amputation, with no anesthetic except corn liquor. He gritted his teeth and endured it stoically, then continued his active life with a peg leg.

Perhaps the easiest way to tell about the settlement of Kansas
County is to give a little narrative about the very first settlers.
When the Indians learned that the settlers were coming, they
or four families claimed they were first. Finally a committee was
formed to hear out the truth. After much deliberation they decided
that, though claims proved good, the first to build a town-
square was the first. Hence, then, is the story.

Robert Smith was born in October, 1817. Some idealists early
writers made it sound like he came. However, as matter of fact,
growing in the "hunting wilderness." The truth is he was exactly
where he was and why he came there. He took advantage of a set of
circumstances to acquire a desirable spot from Kansas Indians
he knew were about looking over land in Missouri. The government
was willing to purchase them to remove to. He wanted to be first to
take a claim.

Robert Smith was the grandson of Scotch-Irish immigrants. His
father, John, grew up in the Shenandoah Valley. About 1770 he
settled in Henry County, Va. and got married. Robert was born there
in 1795. The oldest son of the Henry County family
in the Revolutionary War. He was poor and rich planters owned most
of the land in Henry County, so soon after the war he took wife and
three little ones to Kentucky where he hoped to buy land. Before
they could have enough money history repeated itself, with Robert
planting during the price war days.

In 1796 the Smiths and several others in the same circumstances
crossed the Ohio River and squatted on the Western bottom, a rich
land called the French settlement. Robert's mother
died, probably of malaria, and the oldest sister took over raising
the other children. By then there were six of them. So one could
buy land until it was overgrown. The claims of the French-speaking
people already living there had to be worked out first, a very
difficult task. At first Congress wanted to avoid the squatters
but eventually public opinion shifted in their favor. The land was
not for sale until 1815. In the meanwhile in 1805 John sold his
movements to another squatter and moved a few miles up the
Kansas River to what was called a ferry. The Smiths were finally
able to secure title. John died in 1815, a poor farmer who
craved land all his life and worked hard but never got to own any.

Robert grew up to be tough, uneducated, illiterate but shrewd. He
did learn how to sign his name, however. At age 20 he married and
settled a claim at Wood River across from the Indian settlement.
raising hogs in the woods, planting a small cornfield, a garden, and
hunting game. He often traveled a long distance hunting and was
good at dodging Indians. In 1805, while on a hunting trip his leg
was injured. It seems he was lured by the view they reached said
that his only hope was amputation. With no medical help except
liquor. He grinded his teeth and endured it stoically. Then contin-
ued his active life with a peg leg.

AVERILL FAMILY

Being a long range hunter, Robert Pulliam learned of the Indian camp near the San-gam-ma where they hunted in the winter and made maple sugar in the groves in early spring, some of which was sold very profitably. The Kickapoos had fought on the side of the British during the War of 1812 and hated the settlers bitterly. Massacres were frequent, and for that the Indians were regarded with loathing and contempt.

When the Pulliam's son Martin was seven years old, his next-door neighbor, Mrs. Reagan and her six children were scalped while walking in the woods. Some women were tomahawked while making soap in big kettles in their own yards. The Indians grabbed their screaming babies and threw them into the boiling water. (See the picture of Martin Pulliam and his wife on another page. They lived three doors from Philo Averill and his family when the 1830 census was taken.)

Finally, after a series of land-grabbing treaties, the Kickapoos, hungry and broken-spirited, agreed in 1817 to look over the tracts near the Osage River in Missouri the government was offering in exchange for their land in Illinois. Robert Pulliam had prepared for the time when something like that might happen. When the Woods River land office finally opened in 1816, he sold his improvements and took the cash rather than exercise his squatter's right to buy. He moved his family back to stay with his relatives near Pulliam's Ferry. Cattle herders had been raising cattle in the woods near the American Bottom for years. In 1817 he purchased a herd of skinny cattle.

Robert knew that during late 1817 most of the Indians were away trying out the facilities at Osage River, so that fall he hired four drovers and a cook who was sister to one of them. Instead of grazing the cattle on the mast in the local woods as was the custom, they drove their cattle at the slow pace of 10 miles a day to keep them healthy, up the Old Indian Trail to the San-gam-ma. They camped near the trail on the east side of the Sugar Creek, in the maple woods at the edge of the tall grass. The cattle soon grew fat on the rich diet. The group built a cabin on that spot and stayed all winter, caring for the cattle. In the spring he put his drovers to work collecting and boiling maple sap in the woods. They had already prepared for that by lugging along all the necessary kettles and buckets. A fine profit was made when they returned to the settlement in the spring with fat cattle and a large quantity of maple sugar which sold very quickly.

Robert did not return to the Sugar Camp until after the treaty with the Indians was signed in 1819. Even then some Indians remained but they for the most part stayed north of the Sangamon River. Other settlers, perhaps hearing of Pulliam's success, or perhaps on their own initiative, took a chance on the Indians and went to Sugar Creek during the summer or fall of 1818. Some of those families did plant crops in 1818, but Pulliam and his crew had built the first cabin, and had lived there during the winter of 1817/8.

being a long range hunter. Robert Pulliam learned of the Indian camp near the San Juan where they hunted in the winter and made camp near the grove in early spring. Some of which was said to be Pulliam. The Indians had found on the side of the mountain during the war of 1812 and named the village Pulliam. Some were found, and the Indians were regarded with feeling and sympathy.

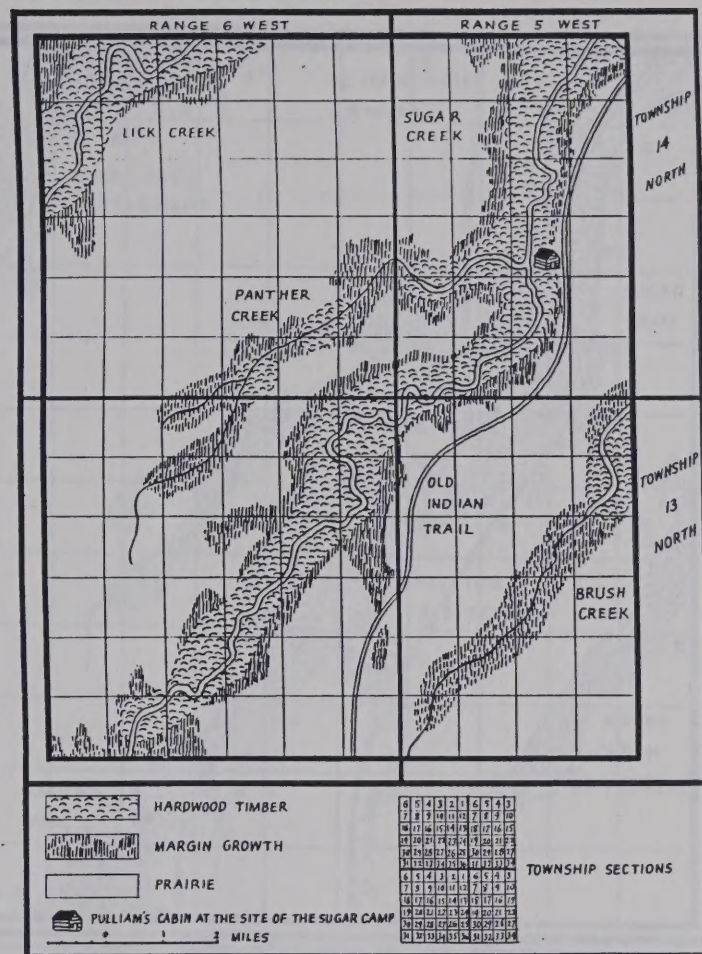
When the Pulliam's son Martin was seven years old, his father, Robert, and his six children were killed while hunting in the woods. Some women were found near the place where they were killed in their own yards. The Indians grabbed their remaining bodies and threw them into the boiling water. (See the picture of Martin Pulliam and his wife on another page). They lived there about two miles away and his family were the 1830 census was taken.

Finally after a series of land-grabbing treaties, the Indians finally had been driven out, and in 1817 he lost over the land near the San Juan in which the government was willing to exchange for their land in Illinois. Robert Pulliam had prepared for the time when something like that might happen. When the Indians had been driven out, he sold his land near the river and moved to the east rather than exercise his right to stay and look the cash rather than exercise his right to stay. He moved his family back to stay with his relatives near William's family. Charles Barker had been visiting in the woods near the American border for years. In 1817 he purchased a herd of sheep-cattle.

Robert knew that during the 1817 hunt of the Indians were away from the San Juan River, as that left the river to the Indians and a cow who was taken to one of them. Instead of having the cattle on the land in the local woods as was the custom, they drove their cattle to the side of the San Juan to keep them healthy, up the old Indian trail to the San Juan. They escaped over the trail on the west side of the Great River, in the woods at the side of the San Juan. The cattle soon grew fat on the rich grass. The group built a cabin on that spot and stayed all winter, caring for the cattle. In the spring he put his horses to work collecting and boiling maple sap in the woods. They had already prepared for that by having along all the necessary tools and supplies. A fine cattle was sent when they returned to the settlement in the spring with a large quantity of maple sugar which sold very well.

Robert did not return to the San Juan until after the treaty with the Indians was signed in 1817. When some Indians remained but they for the most part stayed north of the San Juan River. Great numbers, perhaps hundreds of Pulliam's women, or perhaps on their own initiative, took a chance on the Indians and went to Sugar Creek during the summer or fall of 1818. Some of those families did plant crops in 1818, but Pulliam and his crew had built the first cabin, and had lived there during the winter of 1817-18.

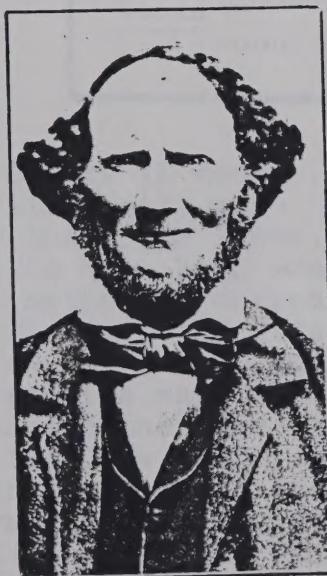
AVERILL FAMILY

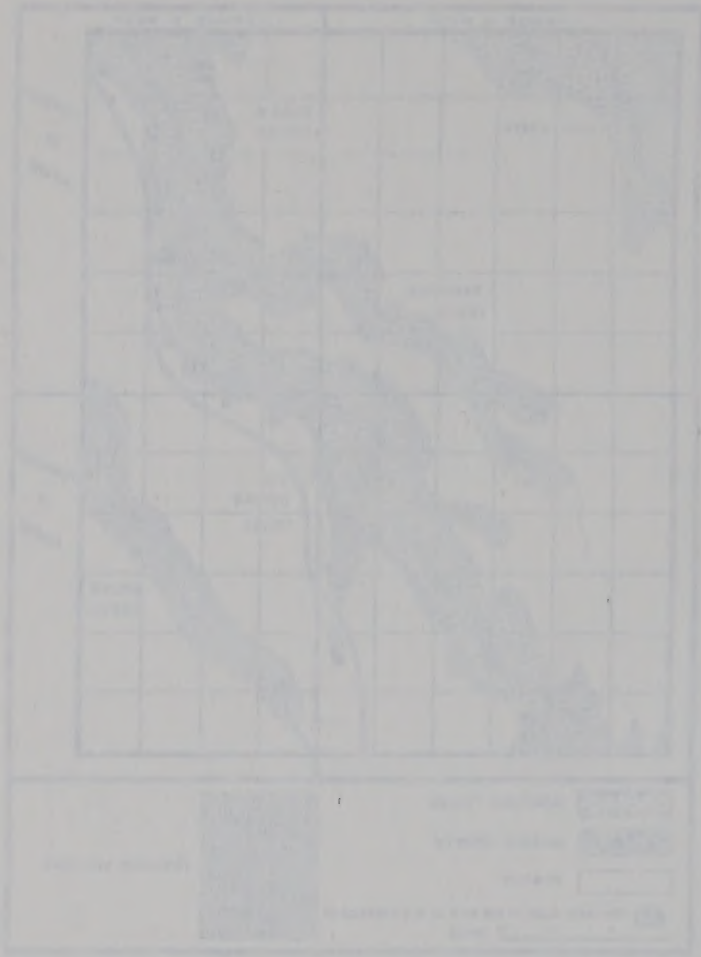


Sugar Creek in 1817

Right Martin G. Pulliam (1807-72) & Lucy (Knotts) Pulliam (1812-78). This couple lived 3 doors from Philo Averill & family when the 1830 census was taken. Photo taken 20 years later. Martin, son of Robert Pulliam, said he had never used tobacco, nor tasted a drop of liquor for many years (in 1859).

- from book, "Sugar Creek" by J.M. Faragher





Map of the United States



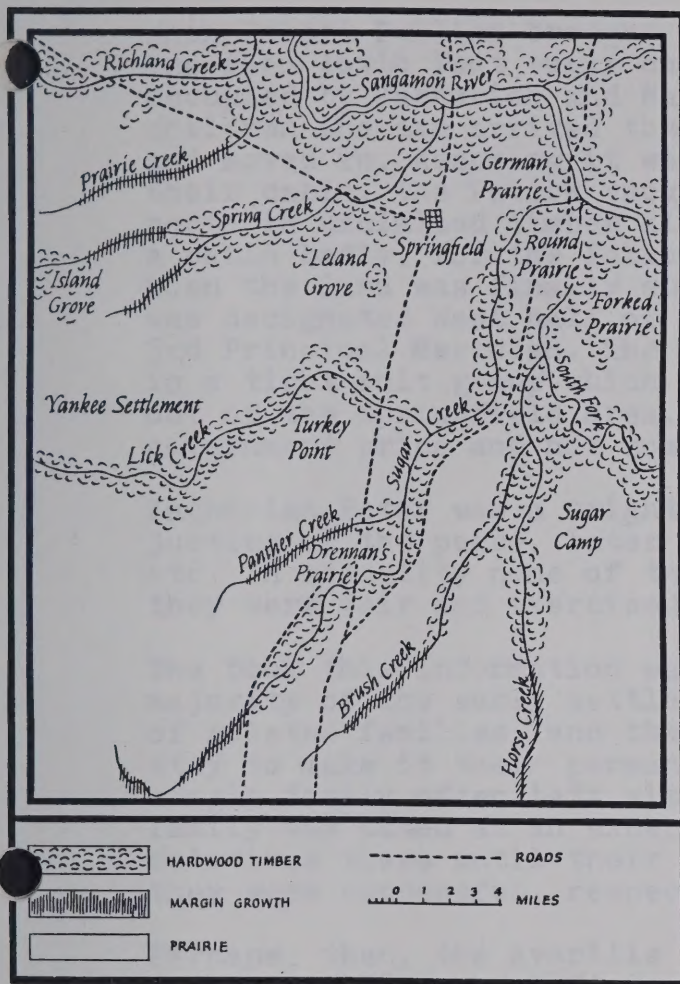
Map of the Eastern United States



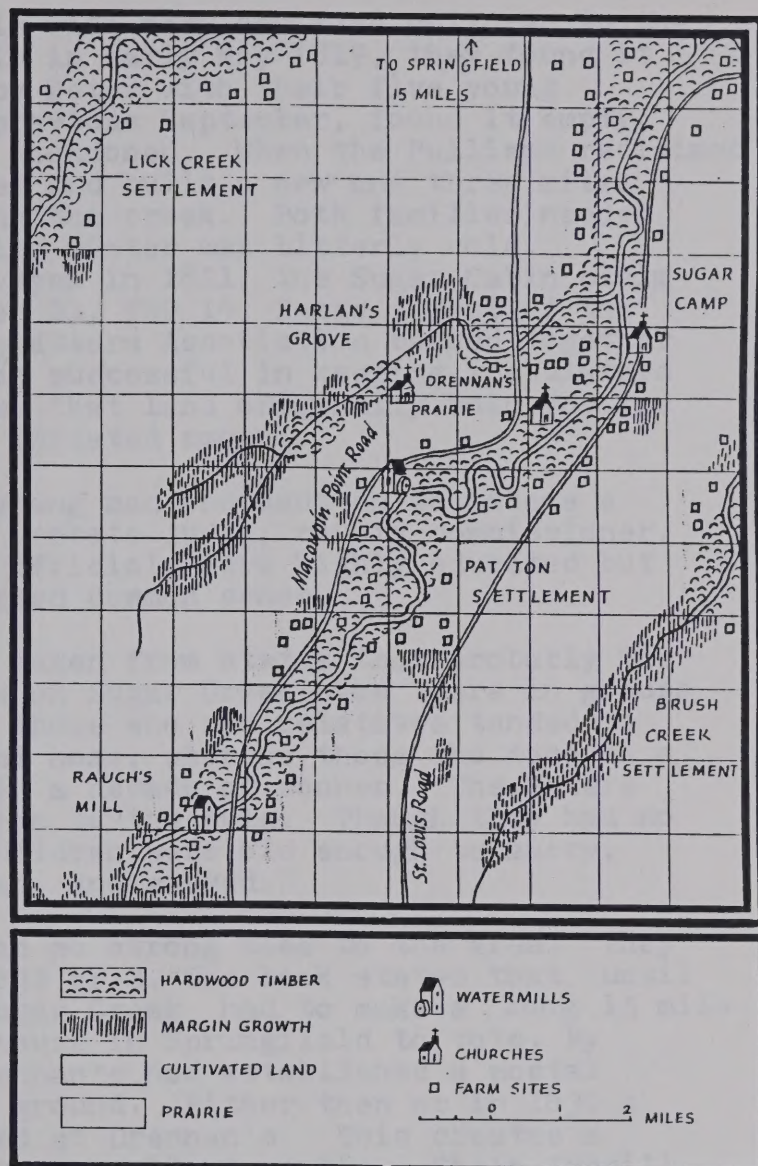
Robert Martin J. Martin
(1927-72) a boy (Knox)
Martin (1913-72). This
couple lived 2 years in
this small town when
the 1918 flu was taken.
Robert lived in Knox later.
Martin, son of Robert
Martin, said he had never
seen Robert, but said a
group of friends for many
years in 1927.

- from Mrs. Martin's book
of the family

AVERILL FAMILY

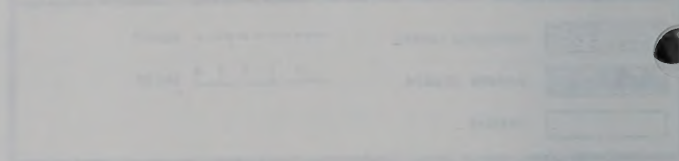
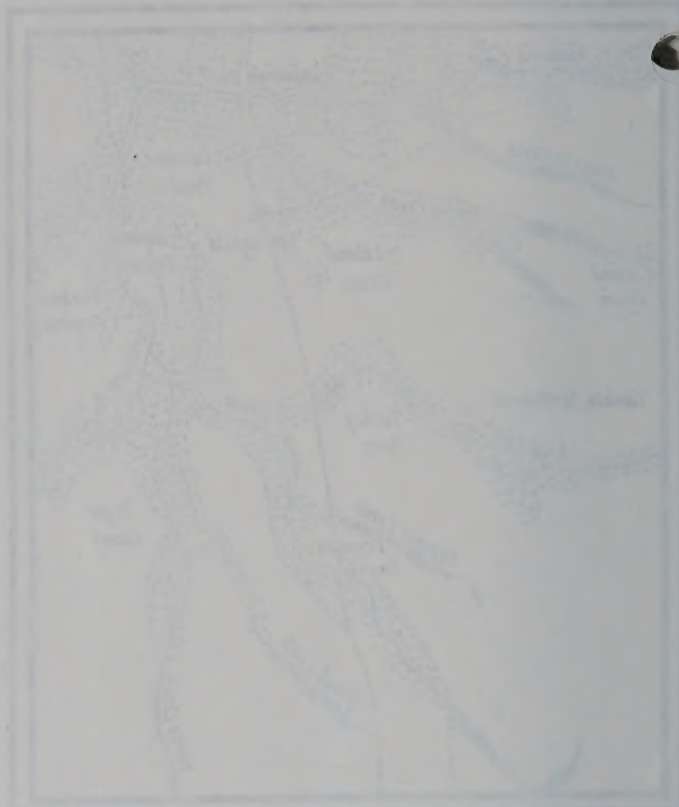
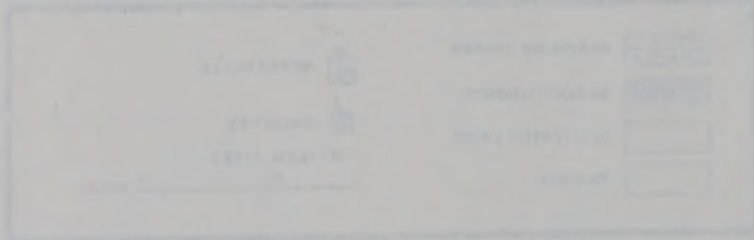


Left - The Sangamo Country
in 1830
Right - Sugar Creem in 1835



Going by the 1830 Sangamon County IL census, Page 7/140 it seems as though the Averill Family must have lived along the Panther Creek Branch of the Sugar River, probably in Harlan's Grove though it could have been Drennan's Prairie. You can see the site of the Methodist church there. The Presbyterians moved to Lick Creek. The site of Crow's mill is shown, south of the Church, on Sugar Creek near the road. Though one of the county histories says there were no bridges at all in the county until after the time the Averills were gone, Faragher's book says the Crow family built one in 1827 to give access to the mill for customers in Patton's Settlement. Perhaps it was a small private bridge for customers rather than travelers. The census page shows Robert Crow and family as neighbors of the Averills.

- from book, "Sugar Creek" by J.M. Faragher



Left - The original survey
in 1871
Right - Sugar Creek in 1875

Going by the 1875 Buchanan County II census, Page 2140
it seems as though the Avell family may have lived along
the Sugar Creek branch of the Sugar River, probably in
Buchanan's Grove town. It could have been Buchanan's Estate.
For the site of the Methodist church there. The
Presbyterian moved to Hick Grove. The site of the mill
is shown south of the church, on Sugar Creek near the town.
Through one of the county historians says there were no bridges
at all in the county until after the late 1870s were.
From Buchanan's book says the first family only one in 1871
to give access to the mill for the community in Buchanan's Estate.
Perhaps it was a small private bridge for the community rather than
public. The census page shows Robert Crow and family as
neighbors of the Avells.

AVERILL FAMILY

When Robert Pulliam brought his wife Mary and five children to the one-room 16x16 foot sugar cabin in early May 1819, they found it occupied by Zachariah and Nancy Peter with their five young children who had arrived the previous September, found it empty, and moved in, assuming it was abandoned. When the Pulliams reclaimed their cabin, the Peters vacated and built a new one three miles north in unclaimed timber along the creek. Both families needed a cabin badly, for the following winter was bitterly cold. When the land was finally surveyed in 1821, the Sugar Cabin claim was designated West half of Sec 21, TWP 14, Range 5 West of the 3rd Principal Meridian. The Squatters Association banded together in a tight-knit group which was successful in keeping speculators out of the Springfield area, so that land originally sold for the government price and not some inflated amount.

Zachariah Peter was a bright young man who went on to become a justice of the peace, later a probate judge, county commissioner, etc. In actuality none of the officials were highly educated but they were fair and exercised good common sense.

The book this information was taken from states that probably the majority of the early settlers on Sugar Creek came there in groups of related families, and that those who had relatives tended to stay to make it their permanent home, whereas those who came as a single family often left within a decade or sooner. The Peters family was cited as an exception to the rule. Though they had no relatives there until their children were old enough to marry, they were successful, respected, and stayed.

Perhaps, then, the Averills had no strong ties to the area. They came about 1825 and left in 1832 or 3. The book states that until at least 1827 the people in Sugar Creek had to make a long 15 mile horseback ride into the Courthouse in Springfield to vote. By 1827 or a little later the Drennan's had established a postal station and military training ground. Either then or in 1830 a voting precinct was established at Drennan's. This creates a riddle which this writer has been unable to solve. Philo Averill never voted at Drennan's, as far as I can tell, yet he was living in Drennan's neighborhood when the 1830 census was taken. Only a few faded and stained old election records still exist, but the ones that do exist show Philo consistently voting at the Courthouse. The records end in 1830.

A few years ago when I first learned of the voting record I assumed the Averill family was living in or near Springfield. Now I'm inclined to think otherwise, but am by no means positive that they did not live there first and move to the Harlan's Grove section of Sugar Creek later. So that all bases will be covered, a few words about the status of the town of Springfield at the time of their arrival is in order. We will want to know about that anyway.

"Snow Birds - Poll Books of Sangamon County IL 1821-1830" -
compiled by Works Projects Administration during the Depression.

AVERILL FAMILY

Even though the family probably farmed they would have gone to Springfield on occasion, perhaps to shop or visit, certainly to vote.

The village of Springfield was established a couple of years after the Sugar Creek settlement, but it could not have been more than that, since Springfield was declared to be county seat in 1821. By the spring of 1826, 500 people were living there. The first newspaper, "The Sangamo Spectator," began publication. Soon there were a saddler, hatmaker, cobbler, several cabinetmakers, carpenters, and also taverns, a distillery, a tannery, and probably horse-driven grain mills. All of these were strung out on one main street, called Jefferson Street, with the houses extending out along the edges.* By the following year there were several millers because farmers and town dwellers alike needed corn and wheat ground for bread. Later mills used water power, but there was no market as yet for any of their products outside the settlement. Transportation was way too expensive even if there had been a demand. Farmers fed the surplus to their hogs or other animals.

On 7 August 1826 Philo was up bright and early, and if he lived 15 miles away that would have been early, indeed, unless he was staying overnight in town. He was the 5th person to vote at the Courthouse in Springfield.

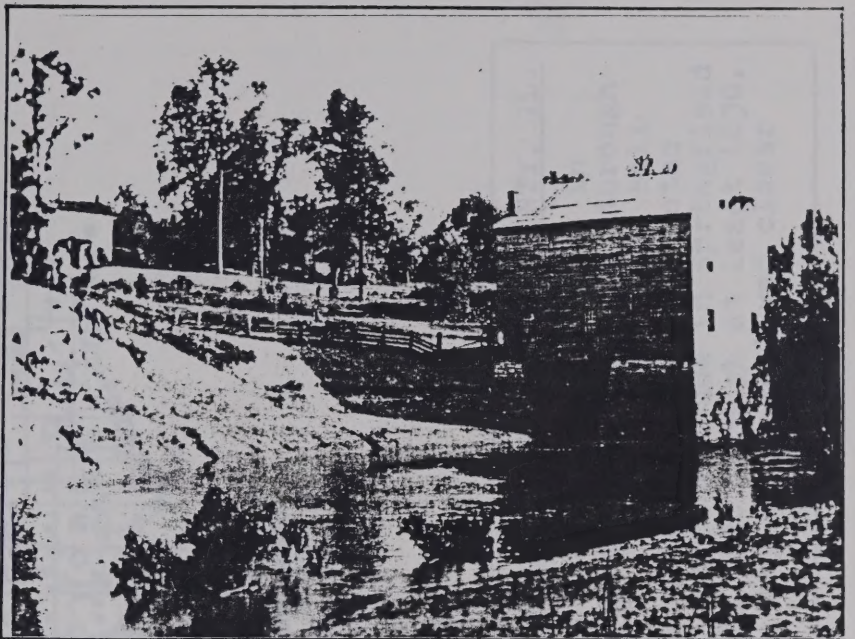
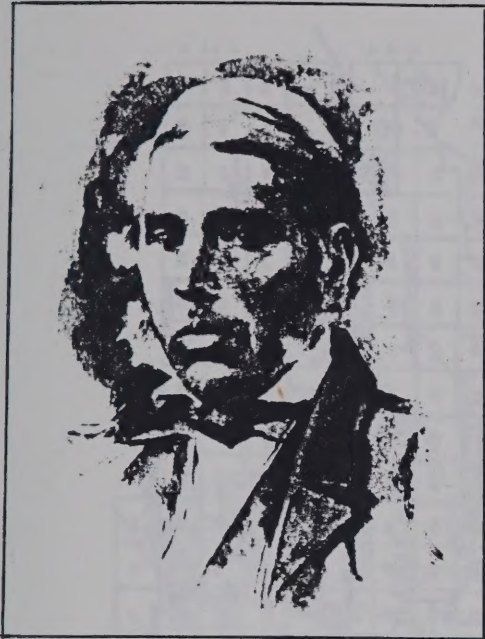
According to the Sangamon County History, "The grandest in the year to both men and boys was election day. State and county elections of that day were held in August. Nearly every boy in the precinct old enough to ride a horse, accompanied father or brother, all spent the day. Liquor was usually available, and drunken men and fights often witnessed. Horse racing was a common pastime at elections.

"Voting was a slow and tedious process. The clerk recorded the name of the voter, and after it the name of each candidate voted for, which were called out by the voter in rotation." (This was before the days of secret balloting. People were usually pretty proud of their political affiliation. Free drinks bought many votes.)

Voting records also show him running for Coroner 2 August 1830, when he was 62 years old. He lost the election, coming in third. The number of votes he received was not impressive, but at least respectable. The people he ran against were not from the Sugar Creek settlement--I did not investigate their residences otherwise. Maybe they came from some place nearer the courthouse, for that would certainly have facilitated their work. Philo must have been a well respected, stable citizen or he would not have been a candidate for a post like that. The election clerks spelled his name "Avrill," "Averill," and "Averille."

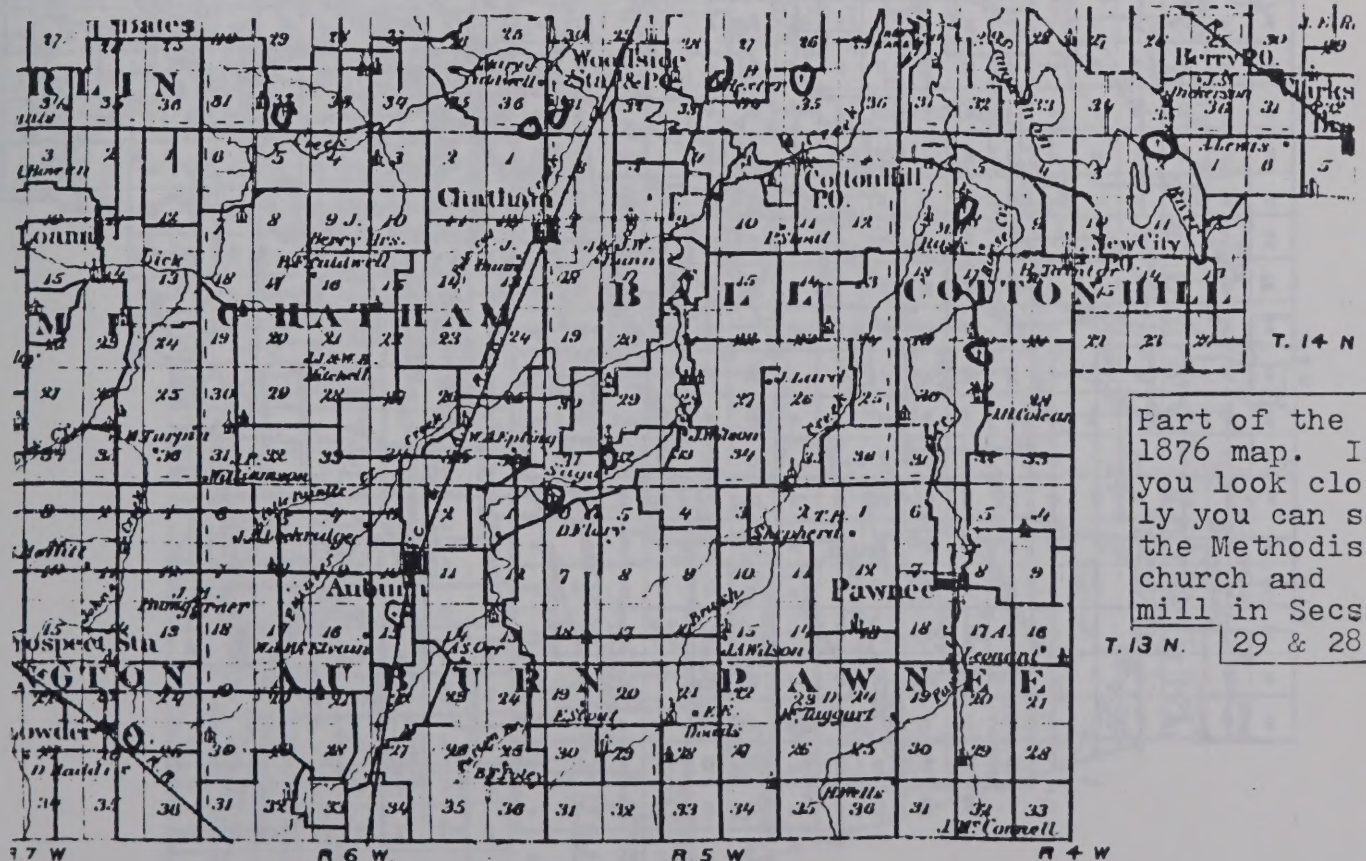
*"Prairie of Promise - Springfield and Sangamon County, IL" -
Edward J. Russo (1963)

AVERILL FAMILY



Left-Job Fletcher (1793-1872) portrait in 1836, the year he was re-elected as a Whig to the IL State Senate. His first winter at Sugar Creek was spent with wife and 3-month old daughter in a 3-face open shelter. In 1830 they lived 11 doors from the Averill Family.

Right-Men and boys swam in the nude in Robert Crow's millpond, sometimes riding their horses in the nude. Probably Norman Chancellor, Allen and Henry Averill swam there. Boys also caught panfish to eat for supper.



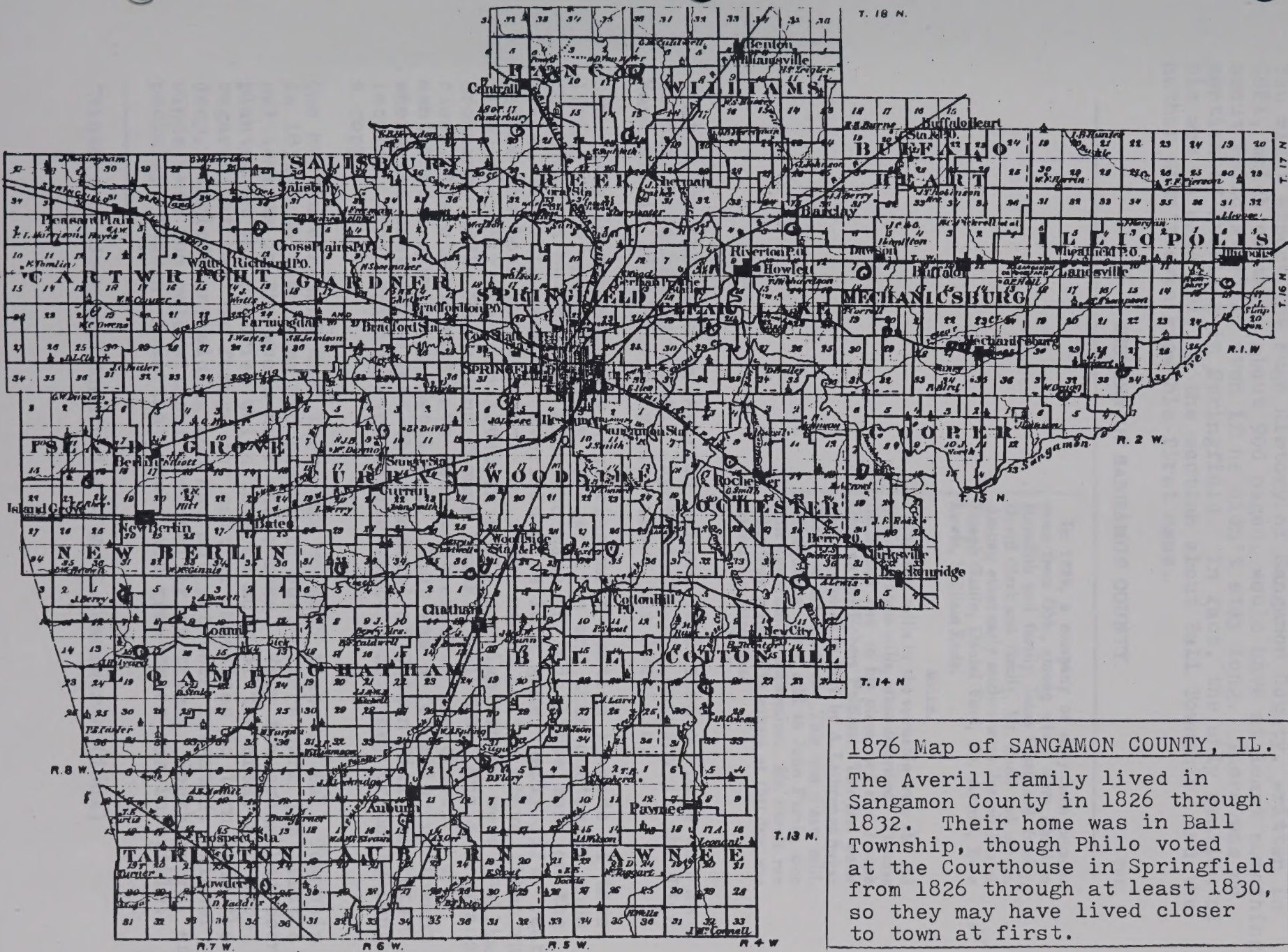
Part of the 1876 map. If you look closely you can see the Methodist church and mill in Secs. 29 & 28.



Left: Joe P. (1900-1970) portrait in 1910, the year he was re-
 elected as a member to the U. S. House of Representatives. His first wife, Mary
 Green was spent with him and 3 months old daughter in a 3-4 day open
 shelter. In 1930 they lived in house from the Averill family.
 Right: John and boys seen in the photo in Robert Green's will, 1930.
 John riding their horses in the photo. Probably Robert Green's will.
 Allen and Mary (Averill) seen there. Boys also caught riding in car
 for supper.



Part of the
 1900 map. If
 you look close
 by you can see
 the Webster
 church and
 Mill in Sec.
 10 & 11.



You might expect the huge History of Sangamon County, written in 1881, which contains about 900 pages, would have at least something about Philo Averill, even if he didn't stay long. There was no mention of Averills in Springfield. In fact, the only mention of him was on page 791, in the section about Ball Township, and the author didn't even know his first name.

HISTORY OF SANGAMON COUNTY.

791

In 1829, a company of sixty-three persons came from Ohio, among whom were Absolom Meredith and family, Isaac Clark and family, David Clark and family, Mr. Snell and others. Among other early settlers were Joseph Dixon, Joseph Gatlin, Daniel Ford, Mr. Averill, Edin Lewis, William Eads. ✓

MILLS.

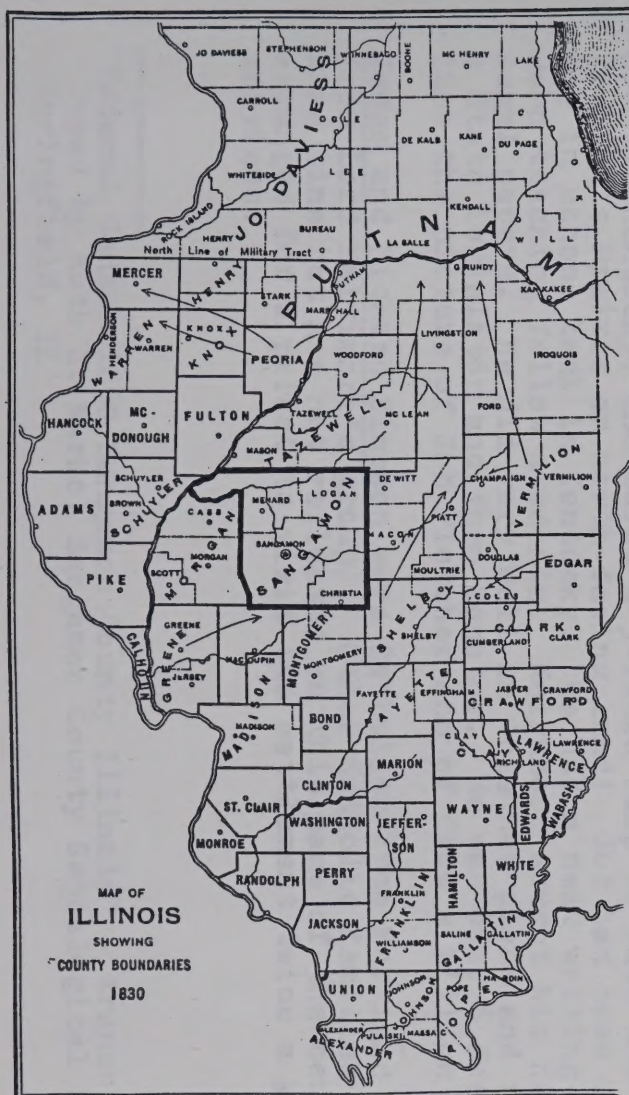
The first mills in the township were the old fashioned horse mills, often described. Thomas Black had one on his place, and also Joseph Drennan and Robert Pulliam. The first water mill was erected in 1827, by A. Lathrop on Sugar creek, on section two. This was a saw mill. Subsequently it was sold to John Purvis, who built a grist mill in connection. Mr. Purvis run a distillery, which, like others at that day, was extensively patronized

That's it, though Henry Averill's name is listed on page 163 as a soldier attached to Captain Japhet A. Ball's Company in the Black Hawk War in 1832. Nothing else about the Averills.

Generally in those county histories most mention is made of those living there when the books were written and thus customers when the books go on sale, or else who made an indellible mark on the place. In this case the Averills were long gone nearly fifty years before the book was written. Of those named in the above illustration, the only ones who lived in Philo's neighborhood were Pulliams, Drennans, Eddin Lewis, and Thomas Black. Only Pulliams & Drennans were close. The others must have been farther down the creek. He mentioned a sawmill on Section 2. That was a few miles northeast where the postoffice (not the township) of Cotton Hill was later located. The Lewises later became well-to-do. They probably bought a copy.

One must understand that there was no such place as Ball Township in 1832. No townships had been laid out. There were just little settlements in the woods near the creeks. Very few crops had been planted on the prairies which covered most of the area, and were regarded at best as forage for cattle. Machines to turn over the deep, tangled, unyielding sod had not yet been invented. Winter winds were too cold without the shelter of trees. Southerners, especially, thought soil that would not grow trees was infertile.

(Compare these names to those on the next 2 pages.)



Pages copied from 1830
Federal census, Sangamon
County IL - transcribed by
Ruth Z. Marko, Sangamon
County Genealogical Society

PAGE 7/140

Samuel Hutton
Silas Harlin
Mathew Harlin
John French
James Harris
Elizabeth Harris
Noah Mason
(Masson)

0-2-3-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-2-2-0-1
0-1-0-1-1-0-0-1

2-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
0-1-0-1-1-0-0-1

James Wood
Robert Crow
Elizabeth Fletcher
Job Fletcher, Jr.
Job Fletcher
Anderson Tibbs
Sugar King
James Simpson
Richard Simpson
William Drennan
Joseph Dodds
William Hatchet
Gilbert Dodds
William Drenan
John L. Laughlin
Philo Averil
John Nuckols
Daniel Esly
Martin Pulliam
John L. Drenan

1-0-0-1-0-0-1
0-1-1-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-2-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
2-2-0-0-0-1-1
0-1-2-1-0-0-1
0-0-2-1-0-0-0-0-0-1
2-2-1-0-1-0-1
3-1-0-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-2-1-2-0-0-1
0-1-1-0-0-0-1
2-1-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-2-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-1

0-1-2-1-0-1
0-0-2-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-3-0-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-0-0-0-1
0-2-0-2-0-0-1
2-1-0-3-1-0-1
0-1-2-2-0-1
0-0-1-1-0-0-1
1-0-1-1-0-1
2-1-0-0-0-1
1-0-2-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-1-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-2-0-0-0-1
2-0-1-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-1

PAGE 8/141

John Brownell
Headley Smith
William Baldwin
Elly Noll
William Enix
James Enix
Evans Poor
Leven Hurley
Andrew Drenan
Elizabeth Laughlin
William Laughlin
William A. Clarke
Zachariah Peter
William Richardson
Jacob Metz
David Harmon
Joseph Limon
Japhet A. Ball
John Barns
Smith Ball
John L. Ball
Thomas Long
Lewis Richardson

2-1-0-0-0-1
3-3-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-2-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-0-1
2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-1-0-1-2
0-1-0-0-0-1
1-1-0-3-1-0-1
1-1-0-1-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1-0-1
2-1-1-1-2-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
2-0-0-2-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
1-2-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1

1-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-1-1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-1-1-1
1-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1
1-0-2-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-2-0-1
3-1-1
0-2-0-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-1
1-1-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
1-0-0-0-1
0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
2-1-0-0-1
0-0-0-1-2
1-0-0-0-1

AVERILL FAMILY

Though we are not positive where the family was when they first came to Sangamon County, we do know that by the time the census was taken in 1830 they were living in the Sugar Creek settlement. (See illustrated census page, typed.) The census does not list any townships--there were none in 1830. The task, then, was to find out more about the neighbors. Finding Faragher's book was a stroke of luck. If anyone wants to buy a book, this is the one I recommend. It provides a wealth of information in a scholarly, well documented but entertaining way there is only room to touch on here. This only glosses over it, but here are a few notes about the family's immediate neighborhood in 1830.

In October 1819, when the settlement was just beginning, Methodist organizers managed to pull together over 100 settlers for a revival in the timber on the east side of Sugar Camp prairie. Several Methodist classes emerged from this. One of the classes was led by James Sims. Four or five years later this class moved to the class of John French, a tenant farmer located in "Cherry Grove," a prominent stand of timber on Panther Creek. START LOOKING AT THE CENSUS.

Methodist farmer Silas Harlan filed a claim there in 1827. The area was later renamed Harlan's Grove. A 40-acre section of magnificent timber was cleared of undergrowth and brush, and became the beautiful "Sugar Creek Camp Ground," the site of numerous religious and social gatherings.

Noah Mason, a New Englander, filed a claim in 1827 and brought his family there. Robert Crow purchased "congress land" in 1824 near his brother-in-law, Squire Job Fletcher, and built a dam and lumber mill there. Boys fished there in the summer and nude men and boys swam there in the summer, some of them riding their horses into the pool, cheered on by spectators. Thomas Black built a bridge over the creek there in 1827, linking Drennan's Prairie with Patton's Settlement. In November 1819, this Job and Mary Fletcher, a young couple with a 3-month old daughter Permelia, came from Christian County, Kentucky, and built a 3-faced camp to face the winter on Drennan's Prairie on north-facing land! Job had been a very bright boy in school back in Kentucky. He had a neat writing-hand and was soon teaching fellow students. Neighbors sought his help with legal papers. He did very well in this new place and finally became a State Legislator and then Senator. He was over 6 feet tall. (See the picture of Job Fletcher and of Crow's Mill on another page.)

James and Richard Simpson were Catholics from Maryland (descended from Lord Baltimore's group). Other Catholic families came at the same time but are not reflected on this page of the census. They arranged for a priest to visit the settlement twice a year for services.

That we also had positive where the family was when they first came to Jackson County, we do know that by the time the census was taken in 1850 they were living in the same place as before (that illustrated census page, page 1). The census does not list any children--there were none in 1850. The fact, then, was to find out more about the neighbors. Finding that a boy was a clerk of lack. It seems to be a boy, but it is not a clerk. It provided a wealth of information in a relatively well documented but interesting way there is only room to look at here. This only shows over it, but here are a few notes about the family's immediate neighborhood in 1850.

In October 1812, when the settlement was first beginning, Methodist ministers wanted to pull down over 100 settlers for a revival in the church on the east side of Sugar Camp Prairie. Several Methodist ministers arrived from this. One of the ministers was John Smith. Four or five years later this place moved to the east of John Smith, a woman named located in "Cherry Grove," a place about 10 miles to the east of Sugar Camp. (That is located at the corner of the road to the east of Sugar Camp.)

Methodist minister John Smith lived a while there in 1812. The area was later renamed "Cherry Grove." A 40-acre section of land in the town was cleared of brush and trees, and because the beautiful "Sugar Camp Ground," the site of numerous religious and social gatherings.

John Smith, a New Englander, lived a while in 1812 and brought his family there. John Smith purchased "Cherry Grove" in 1812 and his brother-in-law, John Fisher, and John Smith and John Smith. John Smith lived there in the summer and John Smith and John Smith were there in the winter. Some of them lived in the house and some of them lived in the barn. John Smith lived a while in the house and John Smith lived a while in the barn. In November 1812, John Smith and John Smith, a young man with a 3-month old daughter, came from Jackson County, Kentucky, and built a 3-roomed camp to live the winter of 1812. John Smith on Cherry Grove land had been a very bright boy in school back in Kentucky. He had a great wish to learn and was soon teaching fellow students. John Smith bought his place with a few papers. He did very well in his new place and finally became a State legislator and then senator. He was over 6 feet tall. (See the picture of John Fisher and of John Smith on another page.)

John and John Smith were Catholics from Maryland (descended from Lord Baltimore's family). Other Catholic families came at the same time but are not mentioned on this page of the census. They arranged for a priest to visit the settlement twice a year for services.

AVERILL FAMILY

In the fall of 1817 the families of William Drennan, his brother Joseph Drennan, son-in-law Joseph Dodds, and neighbor George Cox loaded up their wagons in Greene County Kentucky, came across on a ferry at Shawneetown, and traveled to Woods River where they set up a winter camp. In the spring of 1818 they left the women behind tending 16 children. The four men hired a ranger to guide them up the trace to the San-gam-ma, spent a few days scouting the site, and chose a location for their homes with a clear spring on the west side of the creek. They formed a square-mile enclosure with three sides around a section of high grass that became known as "Drennan's Prairie."

The four men agreed to share work in common for the next two years, at the end of which time all four families were to have homes and farms of equal value, and good size. They cleared timber, built cabins and fences, and raised summer crops of corn and pumpkins that first summer. In the fall they returned to get their wives and children, plus others who desired to come along to settle.

Joseph Dodd's brother, Gilbert Dodds, was a lay Cumberland Presbyterian minister. He organized a congregation which he later moved to the Lick Creek settlement.

Martin Pulliam's picture and part of his family tree was told on a previous page. It may be added that his father, Robert, set up a horse mill in 1820 which was much needed but not too efficient, to grind corn for the settlers.

Daniel Easley was a Kentuckian and related to other settlers. The Easley, Nuckols, and Hutton families remained in the area and their descendants became prosperous in a later time when the prairie could be farmed and the markets in St. Louis, etc., demanded their produce. They even had tenant farmers and hired hands working for them.

Little or nothing was said about the Harris, Tibbs, King, Hatchett, Laughlin or Averill families. As for the bottom half of the page, those were people who lived in a slightly different neighborhood not far away. Judge Zachariah Peter has been told about already. He settled three miles away from the Pulliams. The only other ones who will be mentioned here are the Ball family, for whom the township was eventually named. Japhet A. Ball was involved in several endeavors. During the Black Hawk he was captain of the military unit to which Henry James Cropsey Averill was attached. Mr. Ball also had a mill in later years which he reported was mostly for the good of the community, as it brought very little profit. However, the year he said that was 1837, and that was the beginning of a severe depression.

It would be frosting on the cake if the book had told about Philo, but it did not. Besides county records, the author got some of his information from the descendants in the Sangamon County Genealogical Society, which is very nice, but no Averill stayed around to join.

AVERILL FAMILY

Perhaps someone reading all this about early Illinois history and Sangamon County settlers will say, "She has told about everyone but the Averills." But think--how could a family living 7 or 8 years in a place like that with neighbors like those not have been affected? Norman Chancellor Averill was ten years old when they settled there and 17 or 18 when they left--those may have been the most formative years of his life.

People there had to make great use of their muscles just to subsist, and the women had it very hard. Rebecah and the girls had to work dawn to dusk. Women not only had to make all the clothes--they had to grow flax, or even gather and harvest nettles for cloth, card and spin the wool, grow vegetables, milk cows and on and on. But the boys would have gone fishing and swimming at the mill pond near their home, and joined Philo when he went to Springfield to vote. Henry would have been one of the youths receiving military training at Mr. Drennan's.

All of the children heard Mr. Pulliam tell about the Indians throwing his little neighbor babies into the boiling kettles. Even as a man Martin Pulliam had nightmares about that. No wonder Henry was anxious to fight in the Black Hawk War. Pretty fair schooling was available to the Averill children but their parents had to pay for it. Many of the early settlers were uncultured, sometimes rough, and everyone drank too much in 1830--it was a sign of the times. The Methodists had not yet started their Temperance Society meetings, but in spite of their rough edges most of those people were religious. The Averills lived within easy walking distance of the active Methodist congregation at Harlan's Grove.

The fact that Philo ran for public office proves he was considered an asset to the community. Being a Yankee probably did not help him, but it does not seem that Philo was a typical Yankee--from the time they got to Ohio the family chose to live with Southerners when they could just as easily lived in Yankee settlements instead. You can think of other examples, but don't you agree we learn a lot about people by the company they keep?

I forgot to mention something all the local histories tell about--the mosquitoes were less troublesome than in Indiana or Pope County, except in wet grass, but the horseflies on the prairie were horrible in the daytime. White horses would become pink with blood in only a few minutes, especially on their backs, forelegs and face, while traveling in the open. Riders usually traveled after sundown or very early morning, and kept their horses covered with blankets. The flies were not as bad in cleared land or in the woods but they were much larger than those nowadays. The bites were painful to man or beast and often became infected. Prairie grasses in places were as high as a man on horseback. Once they were gone in later years most of the flies went, too.

Malaria was not the problem it had been in their previous homes but there were enough mosquitoes that it did exist there. They flew unobstructed into the dark, often humid cabins.

perhaps someone reading all this about early Illinois history and
Sangamon County settlers will say, "She has told about everyone
but the Averills." But this--how could a family living 7 or 8
years in a place like that with neighbors like those not have been
mentioned? Herman Chancellor Averill was ten years old when they
settled there and 19 or 20 when they left--these may have been the
most formative years of his life.

People there had to make great use of their muscles just to subsist,
and the women had it very hard. We know and the girls had to work
hard to do it. Women not only had to make all the clothes--they had
to grow flax, or even gather and harvest material for cloth, card
and spin the wool, grow vegetables, milk cows and on and on.
But the boys would have gone fishing and swimming at the mill pond
near their home, and joined Fells when he went to Springfield to
work. Henry would have been one of the young residents assisting
training at Mr. Brennan's.

All of the children heard Mr. Fells tell about the Indians showing
his little nephew naked in the boiling kettle. Even as a man
Herman Fells had nightmares about that. He wanted Henry was
sentenced to fight in the Black Hawk War. Pretty fair schooling was
available at the Averill children but their father had to pay for
it. Many of the early settlers were schoolers, some were teachers,
and everyone drank too much in 1830--it was a bit of the times.
The Averills had not yet started their temperance society meetings,
but in spite of their rough ways most of those people were religious.
The Averills lived within easy walking distance of the active
Methodist congregation at Nation's Grove.

The fact that Fells ran for public office proves he was recognized
as an asset to the community. Being a Yankee probably did not help
him, but it does not mean that Fells was a typical Yankee--from the
time they got to Ohio the family came to live with Southerners when
they could just as easily lived in Yankee settlements instead. You
can think of other examples, but don't you agree we learn a lot
about people by the company they keep?

I forgot to mention something all the local historians tell about--
the mosquitoes were just tremendous when the Indians or Foxe County
except in wet grass, but the mosquitoes on the prairie were horrible
in the daytime. White horses would become pink with blood in only
a few minutes, especially on their backs, forelegs and faces, while
traveling in the open. Riders usually traveled after sundown or very
early morning, and kept their horses covered with blankets. The
flies were not as bad in cleared land or in the woods but they were
much larger than those nowadays. The flies were painful to men on
beast and often became infected. Fells' grandson in Chicago was
killed as a man on horseback. Once they were gone in later years most
of the flies went, too.

Fells was not the richest it had been in their previous homes
but there were enough good things that it did exist there. They
lived unobstructed into the dark, often found cabins.

AVERILL FAMILY

The following winter of 1830-31 is known in Illinois history as "The winter of the Big Snow" - the snowiest winter in history of the state. Some settlers gave up in disgust and went back where they came from the next spring. This is related in various county histories. That for Menard County (then part of Sangamon) relates, "One of the most conspicuous chronological landmarks in the history of Menard County, and all of central Illinois, for that matter, is the "winter of the deep snow." Old settlers, in fixing remote dates, use this as the average mother uses the birth of her children; she says, 'It was the winter after John was born.' The old settler says, 'It was just after the deep snow.' At the old settlers' annual meetings they have badges that are worn by all who were here before 1830, which are inscribed, 'Snow Bird.'"

The book about Springfield says, "A great natural disaster occurred that would divert Springfield's attention from problems for a time. The autumn of 1830 was wet and mild until Christmas Eve. Then a foot of snow fell. It continued steadily for nine weeks, and piled up to four or five feet everywhere. The temperature ranged from freezing to 20° below zero. Most of the corn had not yet been harvested and food was scarce. Mr. Enos saved many lives by delivering wood with oxen and a sled. Horses weren't able to get through. Hogs and fowl died by the hundreds, prairie chickens and deer became almost extinct; and several men lost their way and died pathetically close to settlements. Those who arrived in time to witness the "Great Snow" as it came to be called, were ever after known as Snow Birds. The frightening isolation during the snowstorm made settlers acutely aware of their poor transportation facilities.

A year after that, in the Spring of 1832, the settlers there and in all the surrounding counties became very apprehensive about what they regarded as aggression on the part of the Indians. Keokuk, chief of the Sauk and Fox Indians, had moved his people across the Mississippi in accordance with a treaty about 1830. A splinter group under Black Hawk decided not to honor it and led his supporters back to their planting grounds in a defiant, belligerent fashion. Many of the settlers had a vivid memory of the atrocities during the War of 1812 and even suspected the British were stirring the Indians to war again. Even some Indians hoped help would come from Canada but they were mistaken.

Many books have been written about the Black Hawk War. Some of them represent that desperate, starving, practically defenseless followers of Black Hawk, including squaws and children, were hunted to extinction by ruthless, aggressive armed soldiers. Whatever the truth may be, the settlers around Sugar Creek saw it as protecting their homes and families from massacre.

Private Henry James Cropsey, 22½ years old, who had participated in the military drills at Drennan's, started out with a horse, but

"The Black Hawk War 1831-2" Vol I, Illinois Volunteers -
Illinois State Historical Society

"Index to Indian Wars Pensions 1892-1926" Vol 1, page 57 -
Virgil D. White

The following winter of 1830-31 is known in Illinois history as "The winter of the big snow" - the snowiest winter in history of the state. Some settlers gave up in despair and went back where they came from the next spring. This is related in various county histories. That for Macon County (then part of Sangamon) relates: "One of the most comprehensive chronological landmarks in the history of Macon County, and all of central Illinois, for that matter, is the 'winter of the deep snow.' Old settlers, in Macon County, have told us the average mother uses the birth of her children as a sign. It was the winter after John was born. The old settlers say, 'It was just after the deep snow.' At the old settlers' annual meetings they have passed that law by all who were here before 1830, which was passed, 'Snow Bird.'"

The book about Springfield says, "A great natural disaster occurred that would divert Springfield's attention from problems for a time. The autumn of 1830 was wet and cold until Christmas Eve. Then a foot of snow fell. It continued steadily for nine weeks, and piled up to four or five feet everywhere. The temperature ranged from freezing to 30° below zero. Most of the corn had not yet been harvested and food was scarce. Mr. Bond saved many lives by delivering food with oxen and a sled. Horses were able to get through. Hogs and cows died by the hundreds. Poultry, chickens and deer became almost extinct, and several men lost their way and died catastrophically close to settlements. Those who survived in time to witness the 'Great Snow' as it came to be called, were ever after known as Snow Birds. The frightening situation during the snowstorm made settlers acutely aware of their poor transportation facilities."

A year after that, in the spring of 1831, the settlers there and in all the surrounding counties became very apprehensive about what they regarded as a migration of the part of the Indians. Some of the Black Hawk and Fox Indians had moved his people across the Mississippi in accordance with a treaty about 1820. A conflict group under Black Hawk decided not to honor it and led his supporters back to their planting grounds in a defiant, belated fashion. Many of the settlers had a vivid memory of the atrocities during the war of 1812 and even suggested the British were returning the Indians to war again. Even some Indians hoped help would come from Canada but they were mistaken.

Many books have been written about the Black Hawk War. Some of them represent that desperate, starving, practically defenseless followers of Black Hawk, including women and children, were hunted to extinction by ruthless, aggressive armed soldiers. Whatever the truth may be, the settlers around Sugar Creek saw it as protecting their homes and families from massacre.

Private Henry James Copesey, 25 years old, who had participated in the military drills at Newman's, started out with a horse, but

column states also that Matthew Duncan was a "priv. from 20 Ap to 25 Ap. inc."

¹Summers was originally captain of a company, later commanded by Seth Pratt, in which Leighton and Burton were also first enrolled. The company was formed in Morgan County—at Beardstown, according to the April 28 roll, although the mustering-out roll states that company members were entitled to transportation back to Jacksonville. Duncan was enrolled in Fayette County. The other staff members were enrolled in Sangamon County, with the possible exception of John L. Thompson, about whose war service and enrollment nothing else is known.

²Thomas Long arrived at Beardstown as captain of a company, according to John Carroll Power's *Sangamon County* (1876), 465. The only two pieces of evidence corroborating this statement are confusing, inasmuch as each points to Long's having been captain of a different company.

Jacob Ebey's company was enrolled, the muster roll states, "by Major Long." Customarily, companies were enrolled by their original commanders—thus it would seem that Long was the first captain of Ebey's company.

More direct evidence, however, points to his having commanded the company known as Japhet A. Ball's. The record book of William Thomas, brigade quartermaster (in IHI: BHW Coll.), shows that provisions were issued to Captain Ebey's company on April 28 and 29 and to Captain Long's company on April 27 and 29. All of the men under Captain Long to whom supplies were issued were members of the company later commanded by Ball.

It is possible, of course, that both companies were united under Long's command until the battalion was organized at Beardstown.

COMPANY OF CAPTAIN JAPHET A. BALL

Muster roll of Capt Japhet A. Ball's company of mounted men (detached for foot purposes) one of the companies of the odd Battalion commanded by Major Thomas Long now in the service of the United States commanded by Brigadier Genl Whiteside and mustered out of service on the 28th. day of May 1832

No	Names	Rank	When,	Enroled Where	By Whom
			1832	Sangamon	
1	Japhet A. Ball	Capt	April 21	County	Japhet A. Ball
2	Alexander D. Cox	1st Lieut	"	"	
3	John McCormack	2d do	"	"	
4	Joseph W. Duncan	1st Sergt	"	"	
5	James McCormack	2d do	"	"	
6	William F. Cox	3d do	"	"	
7	Charles Day	4th do	"	"	
8	Harvey Graham	1st Corporal	"	"	
9	John M Barnes	2d do	"	"	
10	Thos J. Clark	3d do	"	"	
11	Richd Cox	4d do	"	"	
12	Thos L. McKinney	Private	"	"	
13	Thomas Gatton	do	"	"	
14	Elder Massie	do	"	"	
15	Abram Lanterman	do	"	"	
16	Jonathan Coleman	do	"	"	
17	Lewis C. Jones	do	"	"	
✓ 18	Henry Averil	do	"	"	
19	Daniel Kitchum	do	"	"	
20	William Mitts	do	"	"	
21	John Brumfield	do	"	"	In hospital
22	Joseph Hazlet	do	"	"	

No	Names	Rank	When,	Enroled Where	By Whom	Remarks
23	William Donner	do	"	"		
24	William Gattin	do	"	"		
25	Barnabas M. Blue	do	"	"		
26	John Hutton	do	"	"		
27	Nathan H. Spears	do	"	"		
28	Salmon W. Hawse	do	"	"		
29	Morris R. Menicks	do	"	"		
30	William McCormack	do	"	"		
31	Jesse Mitts	do	"	"		
32	Charles Smith	do	"	"		
33	John Ball	do	"	"		
34	Garret Tempe	do	"	"		
35	James Ward	do	"	"		
36	Robert B. Sexton	do	"	"		
37	John Porry	do	"	"		in hospital
38	Saml C. Hampton	do	"	"		on extra duty
39	Moses Wright	do	"	"		
40	John Kendall	do	"	"		
41	John D. Bagby	do	"	"		
42	John Gately	do	"	"		
43	Abram Howard	do	"	"		
44	Thomas Cook	do	"	"		
45	Daniel Waters	do	"	"		
46	Robert Patton	do	"	"		
47	Thomas Swarengen	do	"	"		in hospital
48	John Vincent	do	"	"		

I certify on honor that this muster roll exhibits a true statement of Capt Japhet A. Ball's Company of mounted volunteers of Illinois Militia detached for foot purposes. and that the remarks set opposite their names of the respective men are accurate & just

Signed at the mouth of Fox river in the State of Illinois. Lasalle County this 28th of May 1832

Japhet A. Ball Capt

CC, IHI: Stevens Coll. IHI also has a photostat of the mustering-out roll in DNA, which was signed by Ball and has the Nathaniel Buckmaster certificate of service in the handwriting of David Prickett. Only two names are spelled differently on the DNA roll: Nos. 31, Jesse Mitts, and 47, Thomas Swarengen.

The Stevens Coll. also contains a mustering-in roll made out and signed by John J. Hardin at Beardstown, 50 miles from the place of enrollment, April 29, 1832. The Hardin roll lists only forty-three men, omitting these eight on the roll above: 5, James McCormack; 6, William F. Cox; 9, John M. Barnes; 11, Richard Cox; 45,

Daniel Waters; 46, Robert Patton; 47, Thomas Swarengen; and 48, John Vincent. Three men on the Hardin roll are not given in the mustering-out roll. They are Ston R. Green and Benjamin Howard, both of whom joined the battalion staff, and William Sollars, who apparently transferred to the company of William Givens in the 3d Regiment.

No corporals are designated on the Hardin roll, and the sergeants are given as follows: 1st, Harvey Graham; 2d, Ben. Howard; 3d, Joseph M. ("W." above) Duncan; and 4th, Charles Day.

Variations in spelling as given on Hardin's

AVERILL FAMILY

his company was dismounted for tactical purposes. He spent the spring tramping through woods and mosquitoey swamps trying to find Indians. One result of his efforts in the military, and those of his companions, is that after that it was safe for the Bounty Lands to be settled.

The Averill Family must have moved there right away, for on 7 March 1833 his sister Charlotte Baker Averill married Nicholas Royal Teas in McDonough County, hitherto part of the Bounty Lands.

By then Philo was 65 years old and Rebecah 58. Most of the children were grown, though Norman and Allen were still in their teens. Details of the family's experiences in this new home will be told in the next chapter, about Great-great Grandfather Norman Chancellor Averill, though Philo and Rebecah lived there another eleven years. McDonough County was a primitive place when they arrived there but very pleasant, with nice Methodist neighbors and good friends to talk to.

The mother, Rebecah (Rice) Averill, died 9 September 1844, age 69. Philo died a month later on 22 October 1844, age 76. They did get to enjoy some of their grandchildren, including the baby born in 1843 whom Philo named for his hero, William Henry Harrison Averill. Many more grandchildren were born after they died.

Children of Philo and first wife, Betsy (Boardman) Averill:

Malissa	?1789	ca. 1809	Timothy Haskell
Orilla	?1790	-	Became a Shaker

Children of Philo and second wife, Charlotte (Baker) Averill:

Rowlen Green	?1792	ca. 1812	Name unknown
Betsy	?1794	-	Became a Shaker
Electa	?1796	ca 1813	Nehemiah Hurd

Children of Philo and third wife, Rebecah (Rice) Averill:

Henry James Cropsey	20 Jul 1809	10 Sep 1840	Huldah Ann Warren
		1 Jan 1861	Sarah Liggett
Charlotte Baker	Feb 1811	7 Mar 1833	Nicholas Royal Teas
Eliza D.	1813	10 Mar 1839	Levi Warren
+Norman Chancellor	11 Jan 1815	1 Aug 1844	Martha E. Clayton
Allen Wiley	4 Feb 1817	7 Dec 1847	Sarah Clayton
		20 Apr 1853	Mary Ann Delbridge

the country was discontented for political purposes. He spent the spring working through woods and meadows trying to find Indians. The result of his efforts in the military and chase of his companions, is that after that it was safe for the country lands to be settled.

The family that have moved there since 1830, for in March 1833 his sister Charlotte Barker Averill married Nicholas Royal in Washington County, New York part of the country lands.

By then Philo was 4 years old and Rebecca 2. One of the children were given, though James and Allen were still in their teens. Details of the family's experiences in this new home will be told in the next chapter. About 1835-1836, when the children were 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Children of Philo and first wife, Mary (Hawkins) Averill:

William	1837	Mar. 1809	Timothy Barker
Orilla	1838	-	Became a teacher

Children of Philo and second wife, Charlotte (Baker) Averill:

Rowland Green	1838	Mar. 1812	John unknown
Betsy	1839	-	Became a teacher
Eliza	1840	Mar. 1813	Abraham Barker

Children of Philo and third wife, Rebecca (Baker) Averill:

Henry James Crosby	30 Jul 1832	10 Sep 1840	John and Mary
Charles Baker	Mar 1831	1 Jan 1841	John Egbert
Eliza G.	1831	7 Mar 1831	Michael Royal
Thomas Chancellor	11 Jan 1832	10 Mar 1832	Levi Barker
Allen Wiley	1 Feb 1832	1 Aug 1834	Martha B. Clayton
		7 Dec 1837	John Clayton
		20 Apr 1838	Mary Ann Robinson

